

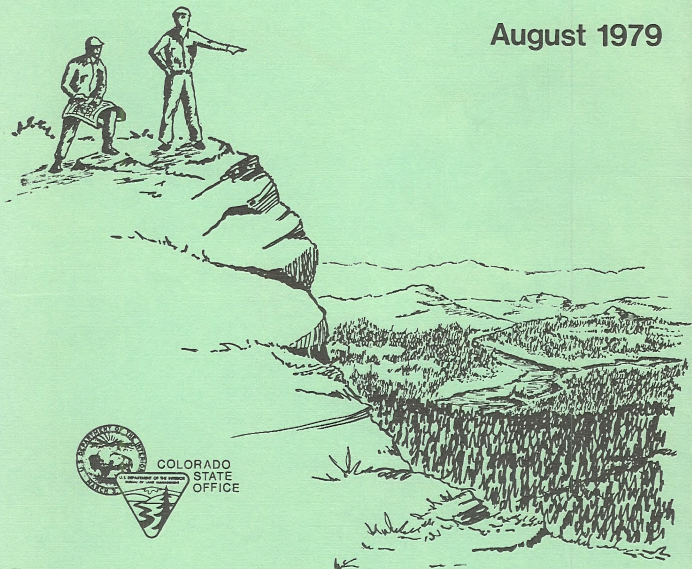
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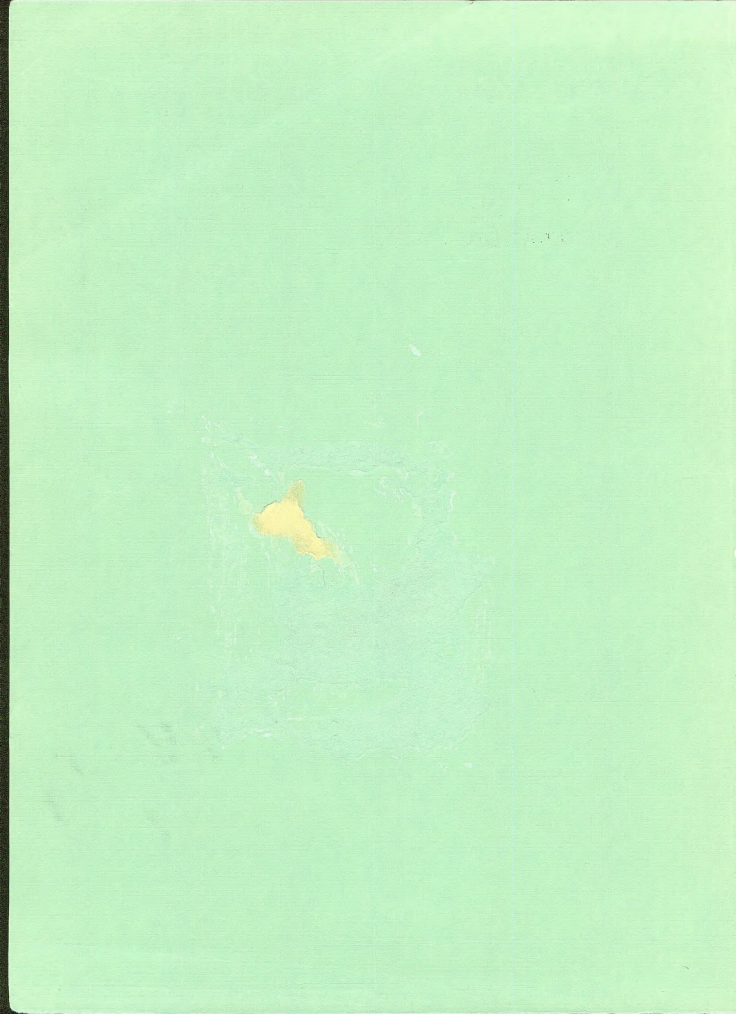
88018780

BLM : INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY »»FINAL««

August 1979



COLORADO
STATE
OFFICE



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ID: 88018780

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 COLORADO STATE OFFICE
 ROOM 700, COLORADO STATE BANK BUILDING
 1600 BROADWAY
 DENVER, COLORADO 80202

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August 31, 1979

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has reached a major decision point in the wilderness review of the public lands in Colorado. The release of this booklet and associated statewide maps and formal announcement through the Federal Register on August 31, 1979 marks my final initial inventory decision as to which public lands administered by BLM in Colorado will be dropped from the wilderness review process and which public lands will remain in the process to be further inventoried to determine the actual presence or absence of wilderness characteristics.

My final decision is based upon recommendations presented for public review on March 22, 1979. After that date a 130-day public comment period was provided. During the comment period, 34 open houses and workshops were held by BLM throughout the state to explain the recommendations and accept public comment. Over 480 comments were received prior to July 31, 1979 which marked the close of the public review.

I was very pleased with the public response to the initial wilderness inventory, especially that most comments addressed the wilderness characteristics of size, roadlessness and absence of significant imprints of man in the areas under review. These factors formed the basis for the initial inventory recommendations. The information received from the public was of great help in formulating my final decision.

With the help of the public comments and subsequent field checks by BLM personnel, I have been able to confirm that the majority of lands administered by BLM in Colorado lack wilderness characteristics. Also, I have directed that those lands having some possibility of containing wilderness characteristics be intensively inventoried to determine the actual presence or absence of these characteristics.

The public lands identified as dropped from further wilderness consideration will be released from the management limitations



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imposed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as outlined in my August 31, 1979 decision. These limitations will, however, continue to apply to those areas remaining in the wilderness review.

I will continue to rely heavily on public involvement throughout the wilderness review process. If you have any questions on how to participate or would like to know how your inputs were utilized in arriving at the final decisions contained in this booklet, I would encourage you to contact my staff at the BLM Colorado State Office or at the appropriate District Offices.

I extend my sincere appreciation to those individuals and organizations who have participated thus far in this endeavor and request your continued help.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dale R. Andrus". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

DALE R. ANDRUS
State Director

I. INTRODUCTION.

This report of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Colorado presents the final decisions on the initial wilderness inventory. Those lands which lack wilderness characteristics will receive no further consideration in the BLM wilderness review. Those lands which may have wilderness characteristics will be intensively inventoried to determine the actual presence or absence of these characteristics.

A proposed decision on the initial inventory was released March 22, 1979, (date of Federal Register Notice) and a formal public review held from April 1, 1979, to July 31, 1979. Results of the public review are reflected in the final decisions.

This inventory is mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and is being conducted using procedures identified in the BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook published September 27, 1978. Copies of the handbook are available from any office of the Bureau of Land Management.

II. BACKGROUND.

A. Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process. The BLM's wilderness review process will be completed in three phases, as directed by Congress in Section 603 of FLPMA. These are: Inventory, Study and Reporting.

PHASE I - INVENTORY: The inventory phase has two parts, initial and intensive. Its overall purpose is to identify those public lands having wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Initial Inventory: In this stage, as reflected in this report, public lands administered by the BLM which clearly and obviously do not have wilderness characteristics are identified. Existing information, such as maps and aerial photos, and input received from the public were utilized to make this decision. Three criteria must be met in this stage for an area to be recommended for intensive inventory. Each must be: (1) at least 5,000 acres in size or contiguous to a proposed or existing wilderness area, (2) roadless, and (3) substantially free of man's imprints.

Intensive Inventory: In this stage, field surveys are conducted, and areas are examined for wilderness qualities listed in the Wilderness Act: opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, naturalness, and the presence of supplemental values. Areas having these characteristics are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

PHASE II - STUDY: Identified WSAs are "studied" through the BLM land use planning system, which analyzes all values and resources within the WSAs (e.g., range, wildlife habitat, wilderness, timber, minerals, recreation, archeology, etc.). A multiple use decision is made regarding each WSA's suitability or non-suitability for designation as wilderness.

PHASE III - REPORT: Recommendations on an area's suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation are reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior and the President. Reports on all WSAs must be submitted to the President by September 21, 1991.

B. Special Project Areas. These areas, as denoted on the Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, encompass portions of the Craig, Montrose, and Canon City BLM Districts. Within the Special Project Area boundaries, all wilderness inventory units have gone directly into the intensive inventory as a result of an overall accelerated planning schedule.

These areas were scheduled for accelerated wilderness review as a result of a 1975 court decision requiring the BLM to complete numerous site specific environmental statements on livestock grazing. BLM in Colorado had to initiate work on these ESSs in the spring of 1979 to meet established schedules. This required that all resource inventories including wilderness, be completed prior to beginning the ESSs.

Ramifications of this accelerated study include the manner in which public comment was solicited and utilized. The inventory units contained within Special Project Area boundaries have examined not only the unit's size, roadlessness, and naturalness (initial inventory wilderness criteria), but also the opportunities present for solitude and primitive recreation, and the presence of supplemental values (intensive inventory wilderness criteria). BLM encouraged the public to comment on these additional characteristics in the special project areas.

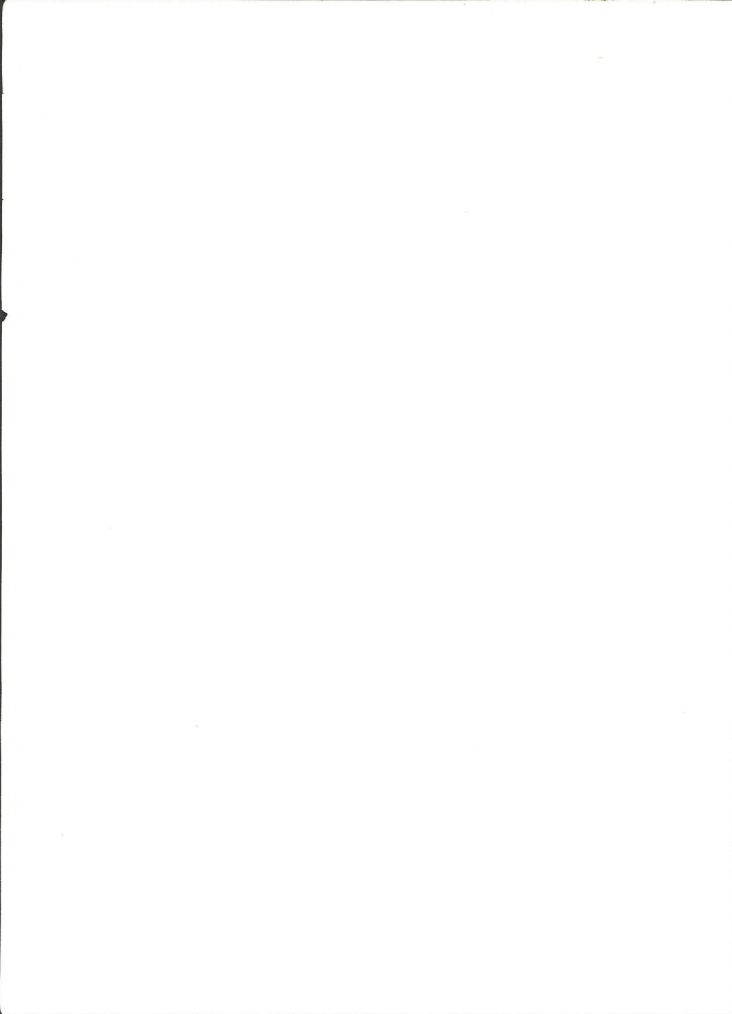
Other units within the special project area boundary may have met the initial inventory criteria of size, roadlessness and naturalness, but may not have had outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. These have not been included on the Initial Wilderness Inventory Map of areas recommended for intensive inventory.

An additional accelerated inventory was conducted on Unit CO-070-001, Prairie Canyon, because of a major conflict with oil and gas development. This is also denoted by a "Special Project Area" boundary on the statewide map. A summary of the unit can be found on page 183.

C. Instant Study Areas. Congress directed that all designated primitive and natural areas currently administered by BLM be inventoried and evaluated on an accelerated schedule to determine their suitability

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. Background Of BLM Wilderness Review	1
A. Overview of BLM Wilderness Review	1
B. Special Project Areas	2
C. Instant Study Areas	3
D. Definitions	4
III. Public Participation	6
IV. Report Format	7
A. Decision Catagories	8
B. Maps	10
V. Narrative Summaries	
A. Instant Study Areas	13
B. Catagory B	22
C. Catagory C	39
D. Catagory D	51
E. Catagory E	249
VI. Index Of Inventory Units By Name And Number	265



for wilderness designation (Section 603, FLPMA). Five of these areas are located in Colorado and are identified on the Initial Wilderness Inventory Map. These are:

<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Number</u>
North Sand Hills (Dunes)	Craig	CO-010-108
Needlerock	Montrose	No No.Assigned
Powderhorn	Montrose	CO-030-089
Rare Lizard and Snake	Montrose	CO-030-263
High Mesa	Canon City	CO-050-009

A discussion of each area, including its progress through the BLM wilderness review, and a map are included in this booklet (pages13-22).

D. Definitions. Terminology specific to the BLM Wilderness Review Process has evolved through the initial inventory. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Cherrystemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that enters the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherrystem.

Contiguous Lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review.

Instant Study Areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, will be studied for wilderness suitability and recommended to the President by July 1, 1980. See page 2 of this report.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. All BLM lands in Colorado are within an inventory unit; these units may or may not be roadless.

Public Lands: Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
- lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private.

(This is the defination used for purposes of this inventory).

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Road: For the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition is adopted: "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply:

"Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

"Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

"Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant imprint of man.

Situation Evaluation: Each wilderness inventory unit, whether roadless or not, has a situation evaluation written for it, describing the roads, size, and general naturalness of the area. These are the file documents associated with the initial inventory and are available at the district and state BLM offices.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined type of recreation, supplemental values

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. The lands meeting the criteria will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Those lands identified as not meeting wilderness criteria are released from further wilderness consideration.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

Wilderness Study: The process of analyzing and planning wilderness preservation opportunities along with other resource opportunities within the BLM's planning system.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The proposed initial inventory decision was released by the State Director for public review March 22, 1979. Public information packets and maps were prepared and mailed out at that time (over 5,000), and news releases were issued presenting the recommendations to the public. A 130-day public review period followed. During this time, a series of 34 open houses and workshops, attended by 323 people, were held throughout the state to explain the State Director's recommendations and to accept public comment.

In the initial inventory, only an area's roadlessness, size and naturalness were evaluated, so the public was encouraged to comment on these factors specifically (with the exception of Special Project Areas, see page 2). The public was informed that their role as providers of information could be extremely valuable to BLM. As a result, BLM obtained information from the public concerning the presence and absence of roads, how and when roads were improved, the presence and absence of other imprints of man, and the like. These have been very helpful in the making of this final initial inventory decision.

At the outset, BLM emphasized that the purpose of the public review was to gather information. No votes have been counted nor will they be throughout the inventory. portion of the Wilderness Review. This is in keeping with the purposes of an "inventory" as explained throughout the public review. As with any resource "inventory", only criteria related to that specific resource are considered. For example, information such as whether wilderness is liked or disliked, or whether or not wilderness conflicts with other uses of the land are not a part of the inventory. These are factors to be considered in the "study" phase of the review process when a multiple-use recommendation on the suitability of an area for wilderness designation will be made.

Many of the public comments requested that BLM place inventory units in intensive inventory which had originally not been recommended for intensive inventory, indicating that their lack of wilderness characteristics was not obvious. Others objected to intensive inventory for units originally recommended, citing conflicts with minerals production or grazing, and indicating, as well, that these areas obviously lacked wilderness characteristics. Comments relating to possible resource conflicts were processed and will be retrieved and utilized in the "study" phase of the wilderness review.

Some comments requested that BLM include for intensive inventory those units less than 5000 acres contiguous to U.S. Forest Service roadless areas which have not been recommended for wilderness through the Rare II process. It is the policy of BLM to consider only those units contiguous to areas recommended for wilderness by other agencies. Should those agencies change their recommendations for any reason, the BLM will re-evaluate its contiguous lands for their wilderness potential.

During the comment period, BLM received 480 public comments, of which 307 were specific to the initial wilderness inventory. Comments included letters, maps, video tapes, photos, oral testimony, reports, and phone calls. The specific comments represented 1,936 inputs pertaining directly to the initial wilderness inventory recommendations, most of which focused on the absence or presence of roads or imprints of man.

All public comments postmarked by July 31, 1979 have been read, analyzed, and where appropriate, field checked for validity. Numerous comments were received during the last week of the review, and due to mail lags, some of the inputs were received by the Districts as late as August 13. These comments have been read, are included in a statewide analysis of public comments, and are included in this report when they provided information not previously received. This information was also field checked for validity. To find out specifically how your input was utilized, contact the BLM State Office at the address provided. Each comment received is on file in both the BLM State Office and District Offices. A detailed analysis of all comments has been prepared in a document entitled "State Directors Initial Inventory Public Analysis Report." Copies of the report are available for inspection in the State Office and District Offices.

For purposes of the initial inventory decision, each inventory unit is considered individually and separately from every other inventory unit. Should any amendment to these determinations be made by the BLM State Director of Colorado as a result of new information received following the publication of the Federal Register notice, that amendment will be formally published in the Federal Register and will become effective 30 days following such publication.

For further information contact: Harold Belisle, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Room 600, Colorado State Bank Building, 1600 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80202 or call (303) 837-3393. Address all written correspondence to the State Director.

IV. FORMAT OF THIS REPORT.

As the Federal Register Notice of August 31, 1979 explains, the final initial wilderness inventory results have been released as two decisions, one regarding units released from further wilderness consideration and another regarding units included for intensive inventory. For purposes of clarity, the two decisions have been arranged into several categories also described in this Federal Register notice. This report follows the format of the decision categories; within each category the inventory units are organized by districts. Their prefix numbers are:

- 010 - Craig
- 030 - Montrose
- 050 - Canon City
- 070 - Grand Junction

A prefix appears in each inventory unit number.

A. Decision Categories.

Decision 1 - Units Released From Further Wilderness Consideration.

Approximately 7,022,305 acres of public land in Colorado will be released from the BLM Wilderness Review. These are grouped in the following categories:

Category A - Inventory units released from further wilderness consideration with substantive public agreement.

This group includes dispersed and small tracts of public lands and those which are roaded or otherwise intensively developed, comprising approximately 6,650,000 acres. In the March 22, 1979 announcement, the BLM recommended these lands be released from further wilderness consideration. Upon completion of the public comment period previously described, there was a public consensus that these lands need not be intensively inventoried.

Over 1,000 inventory units fall into this category, and are thus not discussed in this report. They are shown on the black and white statewide BLM Initial Wilderness Inventory Map along with units selected for intensive inventory. The situation evaluations are available in the State, District, and Area BLM Offices.

This portion of the State Director's decision will become effective September 30, 1979.

Category B - Units previously recommended for intensive inventory which are now released from further wilderness consideration.

This group includes seven units and totals approximately 50,160 acres. In the March 22, 1979 announcement, the BLM recommended these units for intensive inventory. Information obtained during the public comment period and subsequently verified in a field check showed that these units obviously lack wilderness characteristics. They have been released from wilderness review.

Maps and summaries of these units are included in this report along with a discussion of the public input received and the rationale for not including these in the intensive inventory.

These units are shown on the colored statewide Initial Inventory Map, outlined in black with a single asterick by the unit numbers.

This portion of the State Director's decision will become effective October 15, 1979.

Category C - Units or portions of units which were not recommended for intensive inventory which received some public support for intensive inventory but which are now released from further wilderness consideration.

This group includes 40 inventory units and approximately 322,145 acres.

Narratives of these units are included in this report along with discussion of the public input received and the rationale for not including these in the intensive inventory.

These units are shown on the colored statewide map, outlined in black, with two astericks by their inventory number.

This portion of the State Director's decision will become effective October 15, 1979.

Decision 2 - Units to Undergo Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

Approximately 1,310,922 acres and 118 inventory units of the public lands in Colorado will be intensively inventoried for wilderness characteristics. Inventory of these lands is in progress and the public is encouraged to participate. Management limitations imposed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 will continue to apply to these lands until they are officially released from further wilderness consideration.

Category D - Inventory units previously recommended for intensive inventory and which will now be intensively inventoried.

This group includes 110 inventory units and approximately 1,180,722 acres. In the March 22, 1979 announcement, the BLM recommended that these units be intensively inventoried because it was not clear and obvious that they lacked wilderness characteristics. These units received considerable public comment which was field checked by BLM for validity. As a result, the State Director judged that these areas may have some potential for containing wilderness characteristics and should therefore be intensively inventoried.

A map and narrative is included along with an analysis of public comment and a rationale for inclusion of each of these inventory units in the intensive inventory.

These units are shown on the colored statewide map, shaded in brown.

This portion of the State Director's decision will become effective October 15, 1979.

Category E - Inventory units previously not recommended for intensive inventory but which will now be intensively inventoried.

This group includes 8 inventory units and approximately 130,200 acres. In the March 22, 1979 announcement the BLM recommended that these units not be intensively inventoried, since inhouse data indicated they lacked wilderness characteristics. As a result of information obtained during the public review period and subsequent field checking by BLM, there is valid reason to believe wilderness characteristics may be present. These areas will now be intensively inventoried to determine the actual presence or absence of these characteristics.

A map and narrative of each of these units is included in this report along with an analysis of public comment and a rationale for inclusion in the intensive inventory.

These units are shown on the statewide map shaded in brown, along with the other units undergoing intensive inventory.

This portion of the State Director's decision will become effective October 15, 1979.

B. Maps.

In this report, each descriptive narrative on units undergoing intensive inventory and on those originally recommended but released, is complemented with a map. Final boundaries are shaded and outlined in black. Boundary adjustments are marked by a dotted black line, with the specifics of these adjustments explained in the corresponding narratives. Often two or more units are shown on a single map; the associated narratives are not always directly opposite the map, but they follow logically.

Following the narrative for a unit or a group of closely related units, references to more detailed maps are listed.

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Maps

These are enlarged from high altitude vertical aerial photographs, and lack annotation of place names, cultural and natural features, etc. They correspond in scale (1:24,000) and area covered to a standard 7½ minute U.S. Geological Survey topographic map and are identified by the same name. However, when purchasing through the Colorado State Planning Office (Centennial Building, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203), they must be identified by the four digit number shown in the study unit summary.

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads

These are the standard 7½ minute topographic maps (scale 1:24,000) prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. For some of the study units the topographic map coverage may be 15 minute quadrangles (scale 1:62,500). The U.S. Geological Survey sells the maps, as do some bookstores.

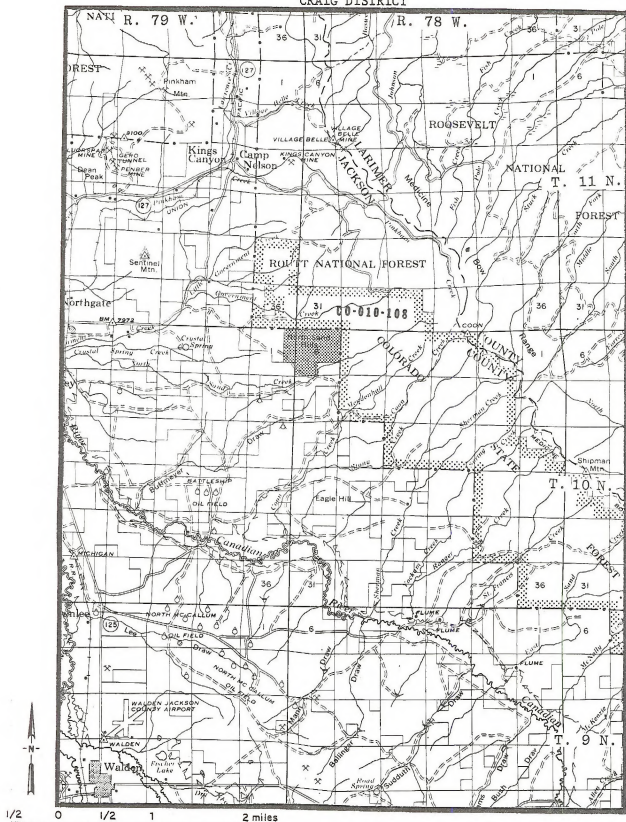
Colorado Surface Minerals Management Color Quad

These are Bureau of Land Management maps, scale ½ inch equal to one mile, covering areas of approximately 30 miles x 36 miles. They show Federal land ownership - National Parks and Monuments, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Management administered lands, and private lands in which various minerals have been reserved to the United States. They can be purchased from the Bureau of Land Management District and Resource Area Office in which the study units are located.



INSTANT STUDY AREAS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
North of Walden, Colorado - North Sand Dunes Instant Study Area
(Jackson County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 1,433 acres

Inventory #: CO-010-108

District: Craig

Area Name: North Sand Hills
Natural Area

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Two leases, two powerlines, and numerous ways exist on the unit. Grazing, off-road vehicle use, and hunting constitute the primary activities. Rolling sand dunes characterize the topography, and sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and sparse grasses make up the dominant vegetation. The area is contiguous to State Forest lands, which have not been identified as having wilderness attributes.

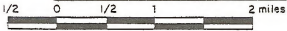
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area has a "Natural Area" designation and thus undergoes automatic intensive inventory. The public review period for this unit was June, 1979, and the Craig District recommended, with State Director's final approval, that the area does not qualify for wilderness. Congress will make the final decision on whether the area will be designated wilderness.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S Topographic Quad:
0023	Davis Peak
0080	Cowdrey
Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad:	NW-5

MONTROSE DISTRICT



Under Section 603

16

GENERAL LOCATION:

East of Delta (Delta County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 80 acres
District: Montrose

Area Name: Needle Rock ISA
State: Colorado

UNIT DESCRIPTION:

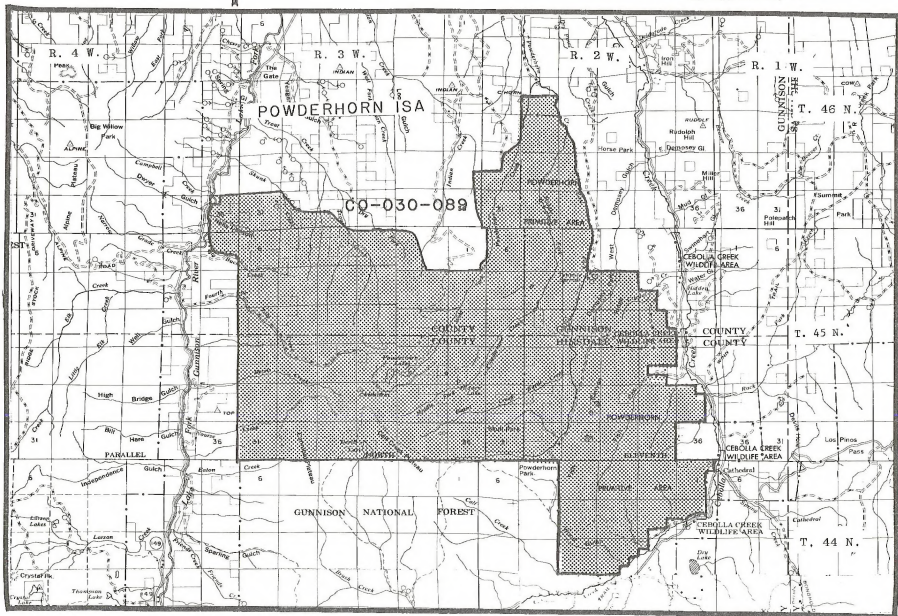
The Needle Rock Natural Area was officially dedicated on October 1, 1972. The prominent and scenic rock exposure is the remaining core or neck of an igneous intrusion. This 80-acre site is surrounded by private land and is divided by both a county and private roads. A small portion of this unit includes a graveled parking area, covered cabana, interpretive signs and a nature trail.

RATIONALE FOR NON-SUITABLE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION:

The Needle Rock unit is of such small size (80 acres) that the area is not practical nor manageable as wilderness in an unimpaired condition. The designation of Needle Rock as a Natural Area will not change as a result of this recommendation. The public review period for this ISA will be in September, 1979. For information contact the Montrose District Office of BLM.

1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location

Northeast of Lake City - Powderhorn Instant Wilderness Study Area and contiguous lands (Hinsdale County - Gunnison County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 50,060 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-089
Area Name: Powderhorn (ISA)
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS :

Most of the unit (40,400 acres) is included in Powderhorn Primitive Area, making this an Instant Study Area (ISA). An additional 9,660 acres of surrounding lands have also been considered in the ISA, having been deemed roadless and generally free of permanent improvements. In the added acreage lie 920 acres of private land inholdings, several ways and several stock ponds. No minerals are known to be present, but grazing is authorized for the entire unit. Five bioclimatic zones exist, with elevations ranging from 8,600 feet to 12,600 feet.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

In the extreme northwestern portion of this unit, 40 acres were found to be unnatural in character. This 40-acre parcel includes a developed recreation site with associated camping facilities.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Only three comments were received in regard to Unit 089. One comment agreed with the Bureau's recommendation and felt the area contains wilderness characteristics. The other two comments referred to other resource values; primarily potential minerals and the evidence of grazing and some private land inholdings.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit includes Powderhorn Primitive Area, making it an Instant Study Area. In addition, contiguous lands are free of roads and generally free of permanent improvements warranting WSA status.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1269, 1270
1271, 1326
1327
1328

Alpine Plateau, Powderhorn Lakes
Rudolph Hill, Lake City
Carnibal Park
Mineral Mountain

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-10, SW-16

GENERAL LOCATION:

West of Cortez (Montezuma County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	12,440 acres	Inventory No:	CO-030-263
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Rare Lizard and Snake ISA
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. Grazing is the primary land use. Various range improvements in the form of stock reservoirs, check dams, contour furrowing and chainings can be found in the area. All of these land treatments appear to be old and are reverting back to natural condition. No active mining is present, but Mobil Oil does have a lease for CO₂ development. There are oil and gas leases in the unit. The area has a high density of archeological sites and ruins (between 16-30 per square mile). The primary vegetation is sage, saltbush, grassland and piñon-juniper. The area is characterized by rolling mesa tops and rugged canyons. Twenty acres of non-public land exist within the unit. The unit also includes the 480-acre Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Study Area. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of non-public and public lands. This unit is contiguous with Utah Inventory Unit No. UT-060-232, which has been recommended for intensive inventory.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

No additions were made in this unit.

Deletions:

Approximately 2,200 acres were deleted from the southern portion of the unit due to the presence of a way which provides access to private land inholdings. This alteration caused the boundary to bisect the unit. Additional information revealed that Cannonball Mesa contained a way that, although it appeared to be no more than tire tracks, was used on a regular and continuous basis for purposes of stock reservoir maintenance and archeological stabilization. Moreover, managing the southern portion as a separate unit is not feasible due to size. As a result, the southern portion of the unit, Cannonball Mesa, has been deleted.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ten comments were submitted for the Rare Lizard and Snake Unit.

Size: The only comment concerning size dealt with the irregular shape of the unit boundary. The statement was general and no inferences were made.

Roads: Two comments specifically addressed the roads of the area. One stated that extension of roads was necessary for access to BLM land. The other comment referred to county roads existing in the unit. No mention of specific roads was made and field work revealed no existing roads in the unit.

Naturalness: One comment was made that the unit failed to meet naturalness criteria. Slides were presented showing various roads, stockpounds and fences. Upon field investigation, however, the roads were outside the unit along the boundary. Others were distinctively ways, presenting minimal impact on the area.

The stockpounds were substantially unnoticeable and revegetating naturally. Impact upon naturalness by fences was negligible.

General Comments:

Two comments were made concerning the importance of the unit for CO₂ development. They suggested that dropping the unit from wilderness consideration would help achieve national goals of increasing domestic oil, gas, coal, and uranium. Two comments refer to the importance of time in developing CO₂ leases and that waiting until the study phase of the Wilderness Management Plan to evaluate conflicting resource values may be uneconomical.

Members of a concerned wilderness group entered two comments stating this area meets criteria established by the Wilderness Act. In addition, they recommended the area become a Wilderness Study Area for further review.

A comment was submitted describing the unit as having possible vertebrate fossil resources. Such fossil resources are considered under supplemental values in the intensive inventory and are further considered in the Wilderness Study Phase.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-263 Continued

A general comment stated if the BLM was interested in preserving canyon-type areas typical of southwest Colorado, that an area such as 263 would be sufficient.

Another general comment was made concerning the uniqueness of pinyon-juniper and high desert within the wilderness system. The comment stated that this type of ecosystem had limited representation within wilderness and would be appropriate to classify additional areas under this system.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (12,440 acres), contains few imprints of man. Limited access to the area enhance wilderness qualities. Though the area contains potential gas and oil sites, the naturalness of the area has been retained since no sites have been developed.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
Photo Map No:	
24-29	Aneth I SE
42-47	Moqui SW
87-92	Moqui NW
101-106	Aneth I NE
	Cajon Mesa
Colorado Surface Minerals Management Color Quad:	SW-19

NOTE: See page 142 for map of the unit.

General Location: Northwest of Canon City - High Mesa Grassland Instant
Wilderness Study Area (Premont County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 680 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-009
Area Name: High Mesa Grassland
State: Colorado

The public review period for this Instant Study Area will be in September,
1979. For information contact the Canon City District Office of BLM.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Two comments stated that since this unit is less than 5,000 acres
it should not be considered for wilderness.

Naturalness: One comment stated that the unit contains roads, ways, and
fences.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Since High Mesa Grassland is a Natural Area, it automatically becomes an
intensive inventory unit, and a situation evaluation is not necessary.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1112
1169

Black Mountain
Cotopaxi

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-6

NOTE: See page 228 for map of the unit.

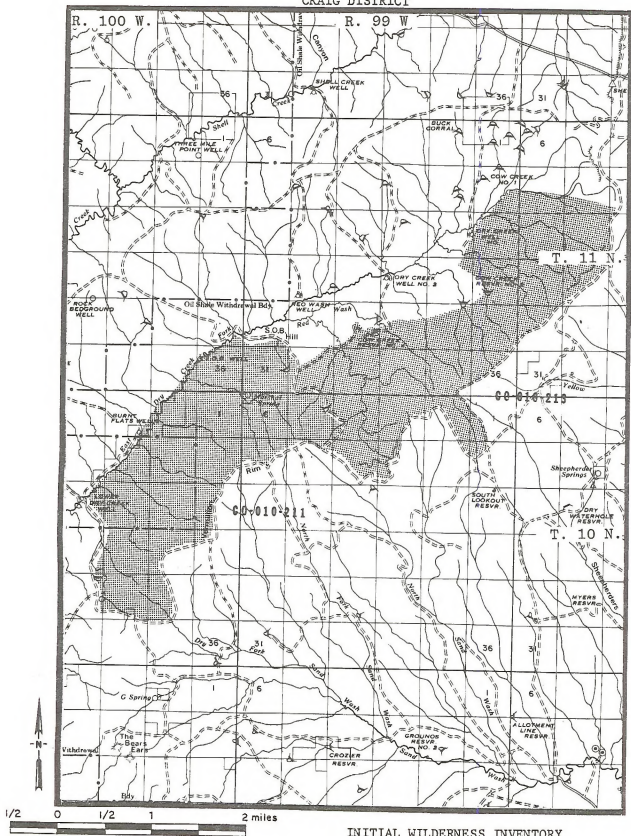
CATEGORY "B" NARRATIVES

Units previously recommended for intensive inventory which are now released from further wilderness consideration.



<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>CRAIG DISTRICT</u>		
CO-010-211	6,520	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-213	9,540	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-272	9,800	Along Yampa River West of Maybell, Colorado (Moffat County)
<u>MONTROSE DISTRICT</u>		
CO-030-364	7,000	West of Delta (Delta County)
<u>GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT</u>		
CO-070-013	5,400	East of Douglas Pass (Garfield County)
CO-070-320	7,100	North of Rifle (Garfield County)
CO-070-439	4,800	Northwest of Dotsero (Garfield County)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 6,320 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-211
Area Name: Lower Dry Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease, as well as oil shale withdrawal. No easements exist. Five miles of fence follow the southeast boundary; reservoirs and stock water wells are strewn throughout the unit. Existing uses include winter grazing and hunting. The dominant vegetation is saltbrush, and the unit takes in Vermillion Rim, a dry mountain area, rugged with steep, rolling hills. The size, narrow configuration and lack of vegetation, the imprints of man are major and are quite noticeable.

After public comments were reviewed and a field check, several seismograph trails were found covering the majority of the unit.

Ways and roads were identified leading to reservoirs and grazing improvements.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.
Roads/Naturalness: Two comments concerned the naturalness and roads of this unit. One, the grazing permittee identified roads, ways, and 5 reservoirs within the unit. The second comment was concerned with the numerous seismic trails that exist in this area. A map was included with the comment identifying the locations.

General Comments: One general comment stated that the unit should not be considered for wilderness and that there is potential for oil and gas development.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

Due to public comments and field check, numerous seismograph trails, ways, roads, and reservoirs were identified throughout the majority of this unit. The size and narrow configuration, and lack of vegetation result in these imprints of man being quite noticeable. The unit appears to have been affected substantially by the imprints of man. Therefore, it is not recommended for further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 9,540 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-213
Area Name: North Lookout
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease and oil shale withdrawal. Two and one-half miles of pipeline run through the northern section, and seven miles of fence form the northeast boundary. Check dams are located throughout the northern portion, and a reservoir is found in the southern portion. Existing uses include winter cattle and sheep grazing and seasonal hunting. Saltbrush and pinyon-juniper make up the dominant vegetation; the topography is dry and mountainous. Numerous seismograph trails, and roads, a BLM radio repeater and T.V. relay station are located within the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.
Roads/Naturalness: Two comments concerned the naturalness and roads of the unit. One, the grazing permittee identified roads, ways and grazing improvements within the unit. The second comment was concerned with the numerous seismic trails that exist in this area. A map was included with the comment identifying the locations of these trails.

General Comments: One general comment stated that this unit should not be considered for wilderness and that it has potential for oil and gas development.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

Due to the public comments and a field check, numerous seismograph trails, ways, roads, a BLM radio repeater and a T.V. relay station were identified within this unit. The majority of the unit is impacted by major imprints which are quite noticeable. The area does not meet the wilderness criteria for naturalness or roadless. Therefore, it is not recommended for intensive inventory.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0004, 0005
0006
0061
0062

Sugarloaf Butte, Hiawatha
Coffeepot Spring
Irish Canyon
G. Spring

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1

*The imprints noted above are documented on 7 1/2 minute topographic quads available for review in the Colo. State Office and in Craig District Office.

CRAIG, cont.

General Location: Along Yampa River West of Maybell, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Size: 9,560 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-272
Area Name: Twelve Mile Breaks
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Small portions of private property are found on the northern border of the unit. No easements or mining claims are known to exist, but the entire unit is under oil and gas lease. Grazing of winter sheep and spring cattle is the predominant use, with seasonal hunting also indicated. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of BLM and private lands, but it is not contiguous to any BLM lands recommended for further wilderness study. Permanent improvements within this unit are roads, ways, seismograph trails, and grazing improvements.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Due to numerous roads, ways, seismograph trails, and grazing improvements throughout the entire unit, this area is not recommended for intensive inventory.

Deletions:

The entire unit is not recommended for intensive inventory because of the following impacts:

Mountain roads in Sec. 25, 36, T6N, R99W, leading to reservoirs and check dams.

Seismograph trails are noticeable in Sec. 1-6, T5N, R98W.

Also, roads are located in Sec. 20, 29, 28, 33-32, T6N, R98W, running south down Graham Gulch.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.

Roads/Naturalness: One comment was concerned with maintained roads and grazing improvements from the grazing permittee. This was confirmed by field check.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

Due to numerous roads, ways, seismograph trails, grazing improvements and a check dam located within the unit, it is not recommended for wilderness intensive inventory. The remaining portions of the unit that are not affected by the imprints, are less than 5,000 acres in size, and not to be recommended for intensive inventory.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

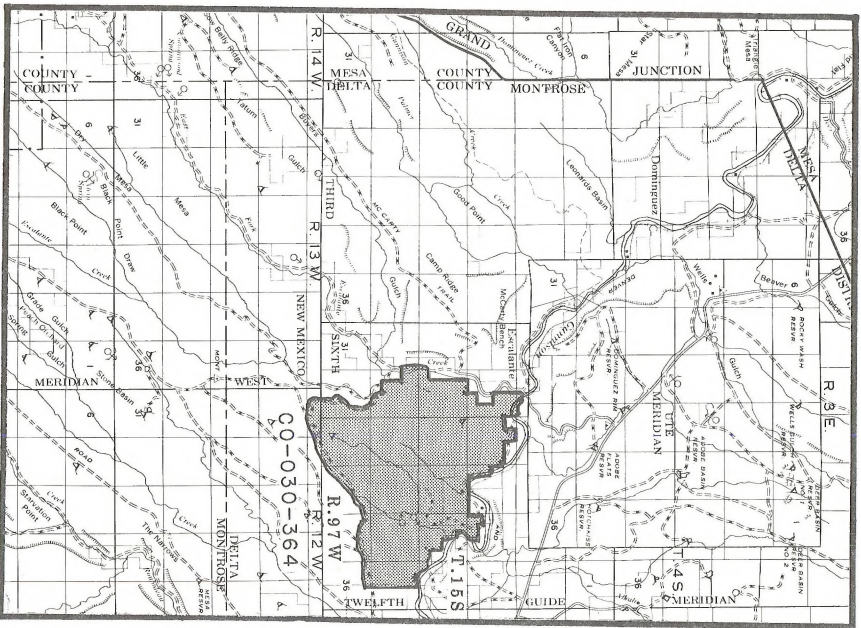
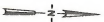
0233
0234

Indian Water Canyon
Elk Springs

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7, NW-8

*The imprints noted above are documented on 7 1/2 minute topographic quads available for review in the Colo. State Office and in Craig District Office.

NOTE: See page 95 for map of this unit.



MONTROSE

GENERAL LOCATION:

Northwest of Delta, West of Roubideau (Deltry County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7,000 acres	Inventory No.: CO-030-364
District: Montrose	Area Name: Negro Gulch
	State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

1,360 acres of this 7,000-acre unit were withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1937 for anticipated power needs, but BLM maintains surface management rights. Grazing is authorized for the entire unit, and this constitutes the primary land use. There is little mineral potential and no known patented mining claims. There are oil and gas leases in the unit. The predominant vegetation consists of piñon pine and juniper with a sagebrush understory. The topography is characterized by gentle, sloping terrain dissected by gullies and arroyos resulting from fluvial erosion.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

No boundary adjustments were made.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments addressing this concern were received.

Naturalness: No comments addressing this concern were received.

Roads: A single comment stated that the unit includes a portion of a public road that parallels the Gunnison River. BLM personnel identified this road as being outside the unit boundary.

General Comments:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation expressed concern over a potential conflict between the intended use of this land for reclamation purposes under a Federal withdrawal and the possible wilderness designation and suggested that this study area not be recommended for intensive inventory. Since this unit has indeed been dropped from the list of areas recommended for intensive inventory, such a conflict will not materialize. It should be noted, however, that the area has been dropped because it fails to meet naturalness criteria, not because of potential conflicts with reclamation projects. Such resource conflicts will be addressed in detail in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

A comment received from an energy resource development corporation expressed concern that future BLM wilderness areas would be designated as Class I air quality regions under the Federal Clean Air Act. This might, they stated, conflict with future oil shale development projects which might pollute air over a wide region, even though the source of the pollution is far from wilderness areas. Again, this type of potential conflict will be addressed in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

Two comments stated that the unit meets the criteria in the Wilderness Act for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and recommended the unit for intensive inventory. No details, however, were given. Subsequent fieldwork by BLM personnel found the unit's naturalness to be substantially impaired by the cumulative impacts of numerous imprints of man that are essentially unmitigated by topographic or vegetative screening. Therefore, the area was not recommended for intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

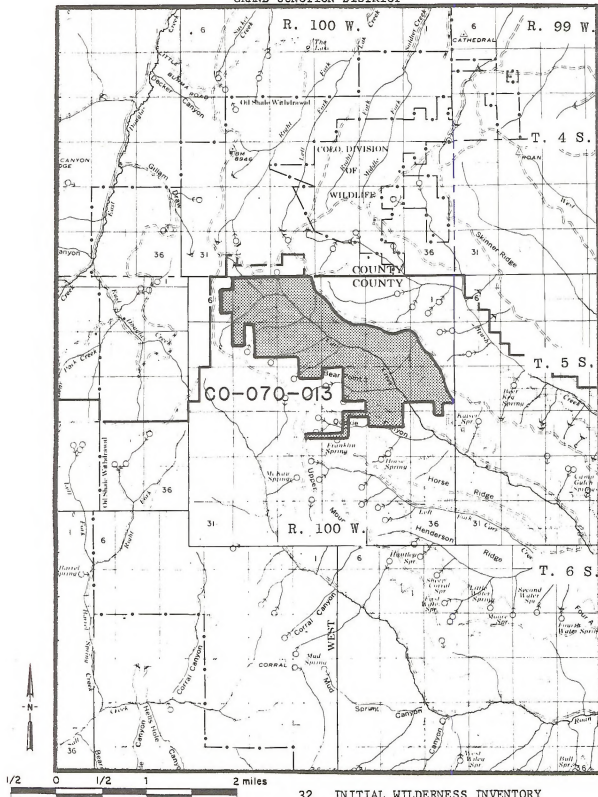
Every square mile within the proposed unit's boundaries exhibits some modification(s) by man. From within the proposed unit, the cumulative affect of man's imprints, combined with the unit's limited acreage and lack of vegetative or topographical screening, produce a visual impression of a man-modified environment.

The primeval character and wilderness integrity of the unit have been compromised by the multiple impacts characteristic of man's activities. Because of these imprints, the unit is determined to be unnatural in character and should be dropped from further wilderness study.

REFERENCES:

U.S.C.S. Topographic Quads:
Roubideau
Good Point
Point Creek

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



32 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GRAND JUNCTION

General Location:

The unit is located approximately 18 miles northwest of Debeque, Co. and about 50 miles north of Grand Junction, Co. in Garfield County, east of Douglas Pass.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,400 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-013
Area Name: Carr Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease and is also authorized for grazing. No major oil or gas development has occurred. Grazing is the primary use. No easements or mineral activities occur in the unit.

Permanent improvements include two short fences in the southeast, two dry reservoirs in the north, and two roads. The first road begins in the southeastern portion of the unit and runs northwest almost the entire length of the unit. The second road branches off the aforementioned road in the middle of the unit and runs north up the canyon wall and ends approximately 1/8 of a mile below the canyon rim. Brush beating has been done on about 1,000 acres along the north boundary.

The unit consists of a valley drained by Carr Creek and two adjacent ridges. Vegetation consists of grasses, aspen, conifers (including Colorado Blue Spruce and Douglas Fir), mountain shrubs, and some riparian species.

Contiguous lands are a mixture of public and private.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment addressed the inadequacy of Carr Creek as a wilderness unit due to its small size.

Roads: Several comments were submitted stating that a major road cut traveled through the center of the unit dividing it into separate halves, each less than 5,000 acres.

Naturalness: A few comments addressed the naturalness of the unit, one stating that the area was too impacted, the other stating that the vegetation and topography appeared unimpacted by man.

General Comments:

Several general comments were submitted covering subjects regarding large amounts of oil shale reserves located within the unit and the general attitude that there is no longer a need for increasing amounts of wilderness lands.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is separated into approximately two equal halves by a road that runs southeast to northwest. A second "mining" road branches off the first road about half way through the unit, climbing to a small oil shale claim, and to within 1/4 of a mile from some vegetative manipulation on the northern ridgetop. The close proximity of these two modifications (vegetative manipulation and road) effectively cuts the unit into two separate halves, each less than 5,000 acres.

Because of these roads, the unit fails to meet the size and roadless criteria necessary to designate Carr Creek an intensive inventory unit. Therefore, the unit is not recommended for intensive inventory.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

0574
0631

U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

Brushy Point
Calf Canyon
Henderson Ridge
Razorback Ridge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-19

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

Garfield County, northwest of Rifle Gap Reservoir

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7100 acres

Inventory #: CO-070-320

Area Name: Horse Mt.

(Parker Ridge)

District: Grand Junction

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

This unit was originally recommended for intensive inventory. The original situation evaluation eluded to a possible road within the unit. Upon field examination and many reports from the public, maintenance of the road was verified. Neither of the resulting portions of the unit split by the road are larger than the required 5,000 acres nor are they considered manageable for wilderness.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

None

Deletions:

Field examination of a reported road along Bush Creek verified the road to be maintained. The existence of this road bisects the unit into two portions, neither of which meets the 5,000 acre requirement or are considered manageable for wilderness.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: General comments were received stating that 5,000 acres of natural area do not exist in the unit.

Roads: Several comments were received reporting a maintained road along Bush Creek in the center of the unit. Several other maintained roads were reported in the south half of the unit.

Naturalness: Comments were received reporting fencelines, reservoirs and other man-made modifications within the unit.

General Comments:

Several comments expressed fear that inclusion of this unit in intensive inventory could seriously restrict exploration and development of energy resources. One letter stated that there is vanadium potential in the unit. A letter also criticized the "cherry-stemming" of roads into units.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The existence of a maintained road in T.4S., R.93W., Sections 3, 13, 14, 15 along Bush Creek divides Unit 320 into two portions, neither of which contains 5,000 acres or are of sufficient size as to make practicable their preservation and use as wilderness.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0580

0581

0637

0638

Rio Blanco

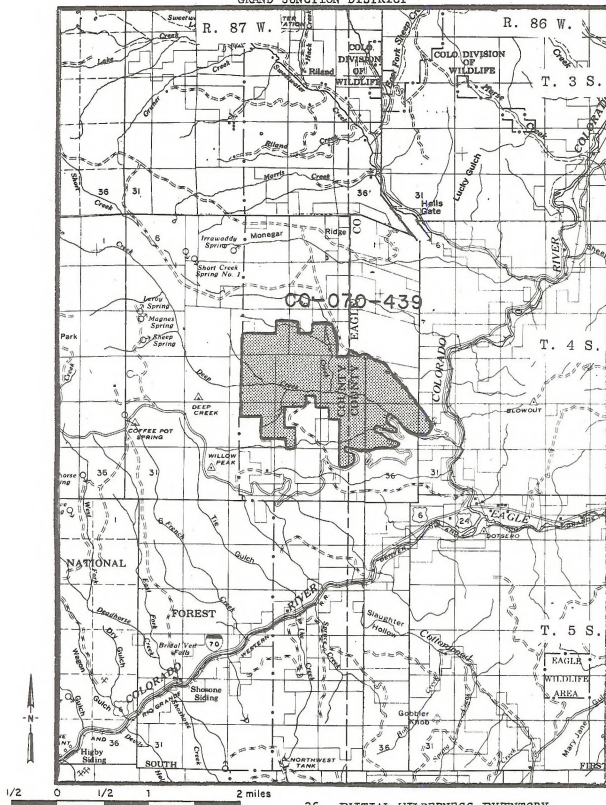
Horse Mountain

Anvil Points

Rifle

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-20

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



36 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

Northwest of Dotsero (Garfield County-Eagle County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,800 acres

District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-439

Area Name: Deep Creek

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Two easements exist on the unit. Grazing has been authorized and while the oil and gas potential is not great, gold, silver and platinum placer claims have been made. There is also a potential for limestone development with current limestone placer claims in the unit. A few reservoirs, fences and ways are located in the unit, but these constitute the only permanent improvements. Existing uses include grazing and various forms of dispersed recreation; for wildlife, the unit is a raptor nesting area and an elk and deer winter range. Steep, rolling terrain with sheer cliffs along Deep Creek Canyon characterize the topography. Vegetation consists of a variety of types, with sagebrush and pinyon-juniper dominating. USFS lands adjoin the unit to the west; to the north and south are private lands and to the west lie BLM lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

Additions:

None

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Comments were received stating that the unit does not meet minimum criterion of 5,000 acres.

Roads: None

Naturalness: Concern was expressed regarding planned development of limestone quarry just south of unit boundary.

General Comments:

A comment was received stating that the area does not possess wilderness character. This statement (other than size) was based primarily on intensive inventory criteria. A comment was also received opposing wilderness in this area due to mineral development potential.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The original recommendation for intensive inventory of this unit of less than 5,000 acres was based on the consideration that the area may be of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use as wilderness. Further examination of the area has indicated the primary attraction and use of the area as wilderness would be the canyon floor, which constitutes a relatively small percentage of the total unit size. Therefore, due to the topographic setting within the unit, it appears not to be "clearly and obviously of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition and of a size suitable for wilderness management". No written public comments were received addressing this unit supporting wilderness designation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: USGS Topographic Quad:

0587

Dotsero

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-21, NW-22



CATEGORY "C" NARRATIVES

Units not previously recommended for intensive inventory, which received public support for inclusion, but which are now released from further wilderness consideration.

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>CRAIG DISTRICT</u>		
CO-010-012	10,370	West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-017	10,635	Southeast of Dinosaur (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-024A	15,000	Southeast of Dinosaur (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-050	17,800	West of Douglas Pass (Rio Blanco-Garfield Counties)
CO-010-055A	10,430	Northwest of Meeker (Moffat County)
CO-010-101	3,200	North of Walden (Jackson County)
CO-010-102	2,560	North of Walden (Jackson County)
CO-010-106	4,480	North of Walden (Jackson County)
CO-010-111	2,560	North of Walden (Jackson County)
CO-010-113	3,200	North of Walden (Jackson County)
CO-010-243A	3,520	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-254	10,600	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-283	7,600	South of Maybell (Moffat County)
CO-010-290	15,220	Southwest of Craig (Moffat County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>MONTROSE DISTRICT</u>		
CO-030-080	2,880	Southeast of Montrose (Gunnison County)
CO-030-084	1,600	Southeast of Montrose (Gunnison County)
CO-030-253	720	Adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County)
CO-030-255	2,080	Adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County)
CO-030-255A	2,520	Adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County)
CO-030-327	8,470	Southwest of Ridgeway (San Miguel County)
<u>CANON CITY DISTRICT</u>		
CO-050-003	16,700	East of Salida (Freemont County- Chaffee County)
CO-050-120	27,500	West of Saguache (Saguache County)
<u>GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT</u>		
CO-070-009A	47,300	North of Fruita(Garfield County)
CO-070-010	25,300	North of Fruita(Garfield County)
CO-070-011	25,600	North of Fruita(Garfield County)
CO-070-123	11,400	Southwest of Fruita(Mesa County)
CO-070-323	700	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
CO-070-324	5,100	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
CO-070-325	700	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
CO-070-330	300	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
CO-070-331	4,500	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
CO-070-332	2,400	North of Rifle(Garfield County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
C0-070-333	1,300	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-334	6,400	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-335	3,600	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-336	3,000	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-337	100	North of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-341	3,800	West of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-342	800	West of Rifle(Garfield County)
C0-070-343	200	West of Rifle(Garfield County)

Craig District

Units Not Recommended By BLM On Which Public Comment Was Received

The first five units (24a, 12, 50, 17, 55a) are located in the White River Resource Area. An accelerated intensive inventory was conducted during 1978 on the White River Resource Area in order to have the wilderness inventory information available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. These units have been intensively inventoried and the determination made that they do not qualify for further study. The rationale is summarized below.

Supporting information and maps on all the following units are available for review in the BLM offices in Denver, Craig, Meeker, and Kremmling.

Unit CO-010-24a - Philadelphia Creek

Twenty nine comments were received recommending that this unit receive further consideration. Two comments noted that while significant imprints of man existed on the edge of the unit, a substantial area still existed that was natural. One comment noted the presence of at least two species of threatened and endangered plants. BLM re-evaluated the area in June 1979 and concluded that approximately 15,000 acres of the original 24,000 acres did meet the naturalness criteria. The adjusted unit was evaluated to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation were present. BLM concluded that the topography (the steep face of the Big Ridge) and the fragmented configuration (numerous penetrating roads) of the adjusted unit would restrict the opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit, therefore, was determined not to qualify for further wilderness study.

Several of the comments made reference to the Cathedral bluffs. The Cathedral Bluffs are south and east of this unit. The western face of the Big Ridge is the prominent topographic feature of this unit.

Unit CO-010-12 - Hammond Draw

Fifteen comments were received recommending that this unit receive further consideration. One comment questioned the criteria used in the accelerated inventory to evaluate the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In order to adequately respond to these comments, BLM re-evaluated the area in July 1979. Several significant imprints (chainings, roads, drill pads, etc.) were identified in the original 19,840 acre unit. After these impacts on naturalness were excluded, it was determined that a 10,370 acre area did meet the naturalness criteria. The adjusted unit was re-evaluated to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation were present. BLM concluded that the topography (lowland area with rolling hills) and vegetative cover would limit the areas available for experiencing solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit, therefore, was determined not to qualify for further wilderness study.

Unit CO-010-50 - Whiskey Creek

Fourteen comments were received recommending that this unit receive further consideration. One comment specifically noted that unit is contiguous to Utah unit (UT-080-721) which is undergoing intensive inventory. In the final decision on the initial inventory, Utah identified a road in Davis Canyon up to private land and State land. This division left approximately 800 acres of the 17,800 acre Whiskey Creek Unit in Utah. The 17,800 acre unit did meet the naturalness criteria and was re-evaluated to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation were present. BLM concluded that the fragmented configuration resulting from the exclusion of roads and private land was not conducive to either outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit therefore was determined not to qualify for further wilderness study.

Unit CO-010-17 - Mellen Hills

Eighteen comments were received recommending that this unit receive further consideration. One comment specifically questioned the use of outside sights and sounds to discredit the naturalness of the unit. Since the original inventory of the unit, certain policies and procedures have been modified. In order to adequately respond to public comment and to reflect policy changes, the unit was re-evaluated in July 1979. An area of approximately 10,635 acres was determined to meet the naturalness criteria and evaluated to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation were present. BLM concluded that the unit lacked both topographic and vegetative screening which enhance solitude. Mellen Hill itself is outside the unit. In addition, the lack of topographic variation was determined to limit the range of potential recreation experiences. The unit, therefore, was determined not to qualify for further wilderness study.

Unit CO-010-55a - Raven Ridge

Fourteen comments were received recommending that this unit receive further consideration. One comment specifically noted that the Raven Ridge area is geologically separate from the rest of the unit. This comment also noted the presence of a threatened and endangered plant species. Since the original

inventory of the area, certain procedures have been modified. A roadless unit of at least 5,000 acres was not originally identified in the Raven Ridge area. In order to adequately respond to public comment and to reflect procedural changes, the area was re-evaluated in July 1979. A roadless unit encompassing approximately 10,430 acres that also met the naturalness criteria was identified. This unit was evaluated to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation were present. BLM concluded that the long, narrow configuration, general size, and lack of vegetative screening would restrict both the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit, therefore, was determined not to qualify for further wilderness study.

Unit CO-010-243a - Little Snake North

This unit received 16 comments because it is adjacent to a large portion of State owned land that appears to be natural. Unit CO-010-243a is not 5,000 acres and the State land is not a designated or proposed wilderness area; therefore, this unit is not recommended for further wilderness inventory.

Unit CO-010-254 - Little Snake South

This unit received the same comments as 010-243a. 010-254 is originally 10,600 acres, but one maintained road dissects the entire unit creating 2 portions of public land less than 5,000 acres. Also seismic trails are noticeable within this unit. Because there is not 5,000 acres of contiguous public land and the State land is not a designated or proposed wilderness area, Unit 010-254 is not recommended for further wilderness inventory.

Unit CO-010-283 - Juniper Mountain

This unit received 15 comments regarding the naturalness and size. The Juniper Mountain unit is 5,000 acres but because of roads and ways it is broken into parcels of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land. One maintained road is used to reach the top of the mountain where TV towers and BLM base repeaters are located. Also along the river there is an irrigation canal running approximately 4 miles. Unit 010-283 has numerous improved roads, and major imprints; therefore, it is not recommended for further wilderness inventory.

Unit CO-010-290 - Little Yampa Canyon

This unit received one comment in regard to size and roadless characteristics. It is 5,000 acres but two roads dissect the unit creating three parcels of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land. The unit has numerous roads used for grazing and agriculture purposes. Therefore, because of roads, size and naturalness, this unit is not recommended for wilderness intensive inventory.

Units CO-010-101, 102, 106, 111, 113 - Independence Mtn.

Fourteen comments were received recommending that these units receive further consideration. One comment specifically questioned whether the boundary roads were in fact roads. Further evaluation by BLM in July 1979 verified the boundary roads. These roads have been improved and maintained for the timber activity on Independence Mountain. No area of 5,000 acres of contiguous public land was identified.

MONTROSE

NAME: Big Blue
INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-080 SIZE: 2,800 acres
LOCATION: Southeast of Montrose (Gunnison County)
NAME: High Mesa
INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-084 SIZE: 1,600 acres
LOCATION: Southeast of Montrose (Montrose County - Gunnison County)
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (CO-030-080 and 084):

A total of 41 comments were received on Units CO-030-080 and CO-030-084. Nearly all of the comments endorsed a conservation organization proposal that advocated the inventory of these two units on the grounds that, although less than 5,000 acres in size, they are contiguous to lands inventoried by the U.S. Forest Service in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). Several other comments independently asked that the areas be inventoried on the same grounds.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING FOR INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

Both High Mesa (CO-030-080) and Big Blue (CO-030-084) are less than 5,000 acres in size. In addition, the contiguous U.S. Forest Service RARE II areas were recommended to Congress for non-wilderness designation. The two areas, on their own, are of a size so small and of such geographic configuration as to make impractical their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. These units are not recommended for further wilderness study.

NAME: Mesa Verde Contiguous
INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-253 SIZE: 720 acres
LOCATION: East of Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County).
NAME: Mesa Verde Contiguous
INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-255 SIZE: 2,080 acres
LOCATION: North of Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County).
NAME: Mesa Verde Contiguous
INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-255A SIZE: 2,520 acres
LOCATION: North of Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County).
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (CO-030-253, CO-030-255, CO-030-255A):

Several comments were received for the three Mesa Verde Contiguous areas (CO-030-253, 255 and 255A). Nearly all of the comments endorsed a conservation organization proposal that advocates further inventory of these three units on the grounds that, although less than 5,000 acres in size, they are contiguous to established wilderness in Mesa Verde National Park.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY (for CO-030-253):

A noticeable way through pinyon-juniper vegetation bisects a portion of this inventory unit. In addition, this unit does not add to the overall intent or integrity of the Mesa Verde National Park designated wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY (for CO-030-255):

This inventory unit, even when evaluated with contiguous Mesa Verde National Park designated wilderness, is under 5,000 acres in size.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY (for CO-030-255A):

This inventory unit is under 5,000 acres in size and is not contiguous to existing National Park Service wilderness.

MENTHOSE, cont.

NAME: Mesa Verde Contiguous

INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-256

SIZE: 2,640 acres

LOCATION: Northwest of Mesa Verde National Park (Montezuma County)

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Two comments were received for area CO-030-256. Both of the comments endorsed a conservation organization proposal that advocates further inventory of this unit on the grounds that, although less than 5,000 acres in size, it is contiguous to Mesa Verde National Park land that has been designated as wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING FOR INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

This inventory unit, even when evaluated with contiguous Mesa Verde National Park designated wilderness, is under 5,000 acres in size.

NAME: Saltado Creek

INVENTORY NO.: CO-030-327

SIZE: 8,480 acres

LOCATION: Northwest of Telluride, south of San Miguel River (San Miguel County).

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A single public comment was received on Unit No. CO-030-327. It stated that the drainage of Saltado Creek and adjacent public land between Beaver and Specie Creeks is wild and natural in character and is important habitat for wilderness-related wildlife species. The comment also stated that a private organization is attempting the purchase of adjacent private lands to manage them as a wildlife sanctuary and requested the BLM to re-examine the Saltado Creek area with regard to its suitability for intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING FOR INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

A field check was conducted in response to the public comment received. The Beaver Creek Road was found to indeed be a road, as was the Specie Creek Road, which is well-bladed, bench cut and graveled. In addition, the portion of the Huff Gulch passage which is accessible to the public is constructed and ensured relatively regular use and, therefore, is a road. A small, wooden pole powerline crosses the unit in the vicinity of Huff Gulch. A large 230 Kv powerline with steel girder towers and a partially bared right-of-way crosses the unit between Huff Gulch and Specie Creek.

These roads are substantially noticeable imprints of man divide the unit into a number of subunits, all of which are less than 5,000 acres in size. The boundaries of these roadless "islands" consist of complex private land boundaries and imprints of man, and do not enable the BLM to effectively manage them as wilderness areas. Although the general comments in the letter received were verified, the unit fails to meet the criteria for size and, in this case where subunits of less than 5,000 acres are concerned, manageability as wilderness. Therefore, the unit is not recommended for intensive inventory.

CANON CITY

General Location: Southeast of Salida (Chaffee County-Fremont County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 16,700 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-003
Area Name: Badger Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

This unit has 12 patented mining claims. Several roads and ways lead to these mines. The majority of this land is leased for grazing. The topography is steep and rugged while the vegetation is mostly pinon-juniper. Except for the patented mining claims, all lands within the unit are managed by BLM. Outside the unit ownership is mixed between private, Forest Service, and state. This unit is not in a natural condition due to the mines and roads leading to the mines. There are also old cut and filled ways which are visible imprints of man. These detractors from naturalness which were mentioned in the situation evaluation have been substantiated by field work during July 1979.

All of the 62 comments concerning unit 003 were very general stating the unit should be wilderness because it has wilderness characteristics. One comment stated that the roads and mines mentioned in the situation evaluation could be cherrystemmed.

REFERENCES:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Cameron Mountain, Colo.
Howard, Colo.

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-5, SW-6

General Location: Northwest of Saguache (Saguache County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 27,500 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-120
Area Name: Trickle Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

This unit contains many roads and ways. The area was so heavily impacted by man that a large unit was created in order to omit these impacts. Thirteen letters were received which stated that because the unit was an important animal habitat area, the unit should be considered for wilderness study. Perhaps some public confusion resulted from checking the wilderness files for this unit. Very few of the roads and ways that are in this unit are shown on the Colorado Color Quad Maps.

REFERENCES:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Lake Mountain North East
Trickle Mountain

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-11

GRAND JUNCTION

CO-070-009A

Grassy Mountain

47,300 acres (excluding 009)

The unit is located approximately 20 miles north of Loma, Colorado. It is part of a larger unit, of which the Demaree Canyon area is recommended for intensive inventory.

The unit's topography is characterized as a rugged and broken plateau, dissected by numerous canyons running mostly in a north to south direction. Most of the unit is covered with the pinyon-juniper woodland type. Higher elevations are scattered with mountain shrubs and isolated areas of Douglas Fir. Sagebrush and saltbrush are found in the canyon bottoms.

The unit was originally not recommended for intensive study because of the high concentration of oil and gas development occurring in the area.

A few public comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Others stated that the unit contains naturally interesting geologic and ecologic features. Many comments related that this area was overlooked for wilderness study and that it should be preserved for it contains many opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Unit 009, Demaree Canyon, is recommended for intensive wilderness study, but based upon field checks, this unit is not being recommended for intensive study. North-south oriented roads or ways that significantly impact on naturalness separates the area into several subunits of less than 3,000 acres. Additionally, these roads and ways and oil and gas development on the periphery so impact the area accumulatively, that the unit is not considered natural. Therefore, it is still not recommended for intensive study.

CO-070-123

Kings and Tom Canyons/Little Dolores South

11,400 acres

The unit is located about 20 miles southwest of Fruita.

The unit's topography is characterized by a ridge and north aspect slope eroded by Kings and Tom Canyons. The elevation varies from 7,000 feet on the ridge line to less than 6,000 feet at the Little Dolores River. A pinyon-juniper woodland makes up the dominant plant cover. Sagebrush communities make up the eastern and northern boundary of the unit.

The unit is divided by a road, with the southern portion (designated as CO-070-123A in the situation evaluation) being too small to be considered for wilderness potential.

That part north of the east-west road has been heavily impacted by extensive chainings in the eastern and western parts. Also several miles of fences and 6 reservoirs impact on the area's naturalness. These modifications accumulatively impact significantly on the unit's naturalness.

Several general comments were received which state that the area should be included in the intensive inventory because the unit was of sufficient size and seemed to be natural and roadless. As a result of the public comments, field checks were initiated which showed that the area is split by a road, contains numerous chainings, ways and some large stock reservoirs. The southern portion of the unit is not of sufficient size to be considered, and the cumulative impact of man's imprint on naturalness in the northern section precludes it from being included in the intensive inventory. The road that splits the unit has been constructed, contains numerous benches, is maintained and is used regularly. The unit does not seem to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

For the reasons described above, this unit is not recommended for intensive inventory.

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

CO-070-011

Douglas Pass/Barrel Spring Gulch

25,600 acres

The unit is located approximately 25 miles north of Fruita.

The unit's topography is characterized by several high ridgelines oriented in a north-south direction. Four major valleys systems drain southward from the main ridge occurring on the north end of the unit. Pinyon-juniper woodlands characterize the lower elevations with stands of Douglas Fir occurring on north facing slopes in the higher elevations. Gambel's oak, mountain mahogany, and serviceberry occur throughout the unit.

During the initial inventory of the area, it was considered lacking in naturalness. The presence of two north-south roads which divide the unit into several smaller areas, stock reservoirs, developed springs, active gas wells, and several water pipelines significantly impact the area's naturalness. Therefore the unit was not recommended for intensive inventory.

Several comments were received stating that the area was natural enough to be studied intensively. Another comment mentioned that even though the area contained several ways it was still primarily in a natural condition.

Field checks initiated as a result of these comments showed that area contained roads, ways, spring development reservoirs and gas wells which cumulatively reduce the overall naturalness of the area to the point that it does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Consequently, this unit is still not recommended for intensive inventory.

CO-070-010

Munger Gulch / Bookcliffs East

25,300 acres

The unit is located approximately 18 miles north of Fruita.

Topography within the unit is characterized by a central, north-south trending ridge line from which drain several deep valley systems. Vegetation consists primarily of pinyon-juniper woodlands in the lower elevations with a mountain shrub type of community in the higher elevations.

The unit was originally not selected for intensive inventory because it was determined that the area was not natural as a result of the cumulative impact of several permanent, man-made improvements which include several ways with major impacts on naturalness, 2 coal mines, several coal exploration adits, a road running along the top of the central ridgeline, 11 stock reservoirs, and several gas wells with some associated pipelines.

Numerous public comments stated that the area contained wilderness characteristics and should be looked at more closely for inclusion in the intensive inventory. The field checks which were initiated as a result of these comments substantiated the general unnaturalness of the unit. Therefore, the unit is still not recommended for intensive inventory.

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

CO-070-325, 333, 337

These units are located in Garfield County just north of New Castle. The units are less than 5,000 acres and do not adjoin U.S. Forest Service lands. Several written comments were received which grouped these units with units adjoining Forest Service lands. The letters recommended intensive inventory for the reason that wilderness advocacy groups were contesting the Forest Service's RARE II decisions on lands adjoining the units. Because these units do not adjoin Forest Service or other potential wilderness lands, it is still recommended that these units not be intensively studied.

CO-070-334

This unit is located in Garfield County just north of New Castle. The unit consists of approximately 6,400 acres with a private inholding in the west half of about 640 acres. Due to the impact of ways and fences in the west half in the vicinity of the private lands, the initial decision was for no further study due to lack of 5,000 acres of natural area. Several written comments were received which grouped this unit with units adjoining Forest Service lands. The letters recommended intensive inventory for the reason that wilderness advocacy groups were contesting the Forest Service's RARE II decisions on lands adjoining the units.

The area has less than 5,000 acres of roadlessness, is not natural and does not adjoin Forest Service or other potential wilderness lands. Therefore it is still not recommended for intensive inventory.

CO-070-323, 330, 331, 332, 335, 336, 341, 342, and 343

All of these units are located just south of the White River National Forest and north of a line between Glenwood Springs and Rifle. All units are less than 5,000 acres and were not recommended for intensive inventory. Several written comments were received recommending these units be considered in the intensive inventory. The primary reason given is that wilderness advocacy groups are contesting the U.S. Forest Service RARE II decisions on lands adjoining these units.

All of the subject units are less than 5,000 acres and no additional information has been received suggesting boundary changes. BLM policy is that where RARE II areas have not been recommended by the President for wilderness designation, BLM will not consider contiguous public lands of less than 5,000 acres for intensive inventory.

CO-070-324

This unit is located in Garfield County just north of Silt. It consists of approximately 5,100 acres and adjoins the U.S. Forest Service boundary east of the unit. Due to the impact of ways and extensive vanadium exploration in the unit, 5,000 acres of natural area does not exist. Several written comments were received recommending this unit be considered for intensive inventory. The letters recommended intensive inventory for the reason that wilderness advocacy groups were contesting the Forest Service's RARE II decisions on lands adjoining this unit.

The initial findings were that 5,000 acres of roadless and natural areas does not exist and that no additional information has been received suggesting boundary changes. Bureau of Land Management policy is that where RARE II areas have not been recommended by the President for wilderness designation, BLM will not consider contiguous public lands of less than 5,000 acres for intensive inventory.

CATEGORY "D" NARRATIVES

Inventory units previously recommended for intensive inventory and which will now be intensively inventoried.

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>CRAIG DISTRICT</u>		
CO-010-208	40,290	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-208E	8,740	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-210	6,080	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-210D	16,960	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-214	26,470	Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-230	17,060	West of Maybell, Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-218, 218A -224, 224A, 226 -227, 228, 229D -271/N6b	39,680	Adjacent to Northern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat County)
UT-080-104	4,420	Adjacent to the Western boundary of Dinosaur National Monument - in Colorado but inventoried by Utah BLM under Cooperative Agreement (Moffat County)
UT-080-110	4,900	West of Dinosaur National Monument - in Colorado but inventoried by Utah BLM under Cooperative Agreement. Unit extends into Utah. (Moffat County)
UT-080-114	2,071	Adjacent to the western boundary of Dinosaur National Monument - in Colorado but inventoried by Utah BLM under Cooperative Agreement. (Moffat County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
CO-010-001A	9,270	North of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-001B	7,510	North of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-002	18,080	East of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-003	13,000	East of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)
CO-010-00N1, 00N2, -00N3, 00N4A, 00N4B, -00N4C, 00N4D, 00N4E, -00N5, 00N6A.	16,410	Adjacent to southern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument - ten small units, each less than 5000 acres (Moffat County)
CO-010-006B	8,778	Southwest of Maybell, Colorado. (Moffat County- Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-007A	7,455	West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-007B	9,250	West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-007C	12,565	Northwest of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)
CO-010-155	11,915	North of Kremmling (Grand County)
CO-010-168	9,870	Northwest of Granby, Colorado (Grand County)
CO-010-178	9,590	North of State Bridge, Colorado (Grand County- Eagle County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>MONTROSE DISTRICT</u>		
CO-030-053A	2,440	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - Northeast Blue Mesa Reservoir Near Gunnison, Colorado (Gunnison County)
CO-030-057	6,070	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - North of Blue Mesa Reservoir Near Gunnison, Colorado (Gunnison County)
CO-030-063	2,520	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest, North of Blue Mesa Reservoir (Gunnison County)
CO-030-085	400	Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest-North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-086	880	Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-088	1,120	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-089	50,060	Northeast of Lake City- Powderhorn Instant Wilderness Study Area and Contiguous Lands (Hinsdale County- Gunnison County)
CO-030-208	38,100	Southwest of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-210	5,980	Southeast of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-211	1,960	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest Southeast of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-212	80	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest East of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

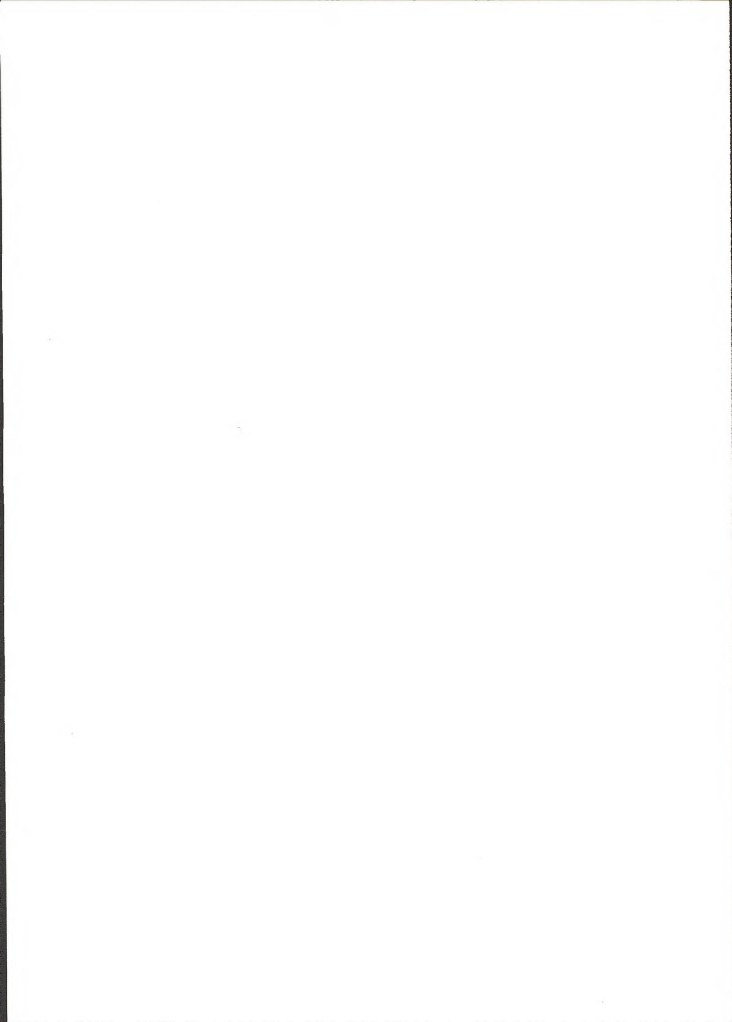
<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
CO-030-213	2,040	Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest East of Lake City (Hinsdale County)
CO-030-217	7,900	East of Ouray (Ouray County-San Juan County- Hinsdale County)
CO-030-229A	5,920	Adjacent to San Juan National Forest - South of Silverton (San Juan County)
CO-030-229B	4,200	Adjacent to San Juan National Forest-South of Silverton (San Juan County- La Plata County)
CO-030-230	4,560	Adjacent to San Juan National Forest-Southeast of Silverton (San Juan County)
CO-030-230A	3,400	Adjacent to San Juan National Forest-Southeast of Silverton (San Juan County)
CO-030-238	1,420	Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest East of Silverton (San Juan County)
CO-030-238A	600	Adjacent to San Juan National Forest-Southeast of Silverton (San Juan County)
CO-030-241	19,560	Northeast of Silverton (San Juan County-Hinsdale County)
CO-030-251	7,360	South of Mancos ((Montezuma County)
CO-030-252	6,560	South of Mancos (Montezuma County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
CO-030-262	6,460	West of Cortez (Montezuma County)
CO-030-263	12,440	West of Cortez- Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Wilderness Study Area and Contiguous Lands. (Montezuma County)
CO-030-265	9,160	West of Cortez (Dolores County-Montezuma County)
CO-030-265A	5,320	West of Cortez (Dolores County)
CO-030-265D	8,550	West of Cortez (Dolores County)
CO-030-286	44,060	South of Naturita (San Miguel County-Dolores County)
CO-030-290	31,585	South of Bedrock (Montrose County)
CO-030-300	8,814	Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest-North of Naturita (Montrose County)
CO-030-310A	1,840	Adjacent to BLM Inventory Unit No. CO-070-176-North of Paradox (Montrose County)
CO-030-332	400	Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest-Southeast of Ridgway (Ouray County)
CO-030-353	13,743	Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - Southwest of Delta (Montrose County)
CO-030-363	47,487	West of Delta (Montrose County-Delta County-Mesa County)
CO-030-370A	22,041	North of Delta (Delta County)
CO-030-388	22,280	North of Montrose (Montrose County-Delta County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>CANON CITY DISTRICT</u>		
CO-050-002	6,468	South of Buena Vista (Chaffee County)
CO-050-009	680	Northwest of Canon City - High Mesa Grassland Instant Wilderness Study Area (Fremont County)
CO-050-010	12,950	North of Cotopaxi (Fremont County)
CO-050-013	20,100	Southwest of Canon City (Fremont County)
CO-050-014	13,000	West of Canon City (Fremont County)
CO-050-016	26,210	Northeast of Canon City (Teller County-Fremont County-El Paso County)
CO-050-017	11,080	Southwest of Canon City (Fremont County-Custer County)
CO-050-033	160	South of Westcliff (Custer County)
CO-050-131	2,737	Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest, Northeastern Edge of San Luis Valley (Saguache County)
CO-050-132B	1,587	Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest-North- Eastern Edge of San Luis Valley (Saguache County)
CO-050-135	1,644	Adjacent to Great Sand Dunes National Monument - 3 Small Tracts (Alamosa County)
CO-050-137	1,020	Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest (Alamosa County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
CO-050-139B	614	Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest - 2 Small Tracts (Alamosa County)
CO-050-140	9,114	Northeast of Antonito (Conejos County)
CO-050-141	12,514	Northeast of Antonito (Conejos County)
<u>GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT</u>		
CO-070-001	10,200	Northwest of Grand Junction (Garfield County)
CO-070-015	17,500	Northwest of DeBeque (Garfield County)
CO-070-066	43,600	Northeast of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-103	8,500	Southeast of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-113	20,400	West of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-113A	49,200	West of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-132	27,700	North of Gateway (Mesa County)
CO-070-132A	19,000	Northwest of Gateway (Mesa County)
CO-070-138	8,900	Northeast of Gateway (Mesa County)
CO-070-150	33,600	South of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-150A	11,600	South of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-176	17,900	Northwest of Uravan (Mesa County-Montrose County)
CO-070-316	11,700	North of Rifle (Garfield County)

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
C0-070-338	7,000	Northwest of Glenwood Springs (Garfield County)
C0-070-372	8,800	South of Carbondale (Pitkin County-Garfield County)
C0-070-392	270	West of Aspen (Pitkin County)
C0-070-421	15,500	Southwest of Bond (Eagle County)
C0-070-425	5,300	North of Dotsero (Eagle County-Garfield County)
C0-070-430	21,000	South of Burns (Eagle County)
C0-070-433	17,500	North of Eagle (Eagle County)



Summary of General Public Comment
Craig District

The majority of public comment received was of general nature or provided information related to other phases of the wilderness review process. Many of the comments addressed resource values (eg. oil and gas, grazing, etc.) other than wilderness. These other values will be considered in the study phase of the wilderness review process. Comments that did provide information relating to the inventory criteria on specific units are summarized in the discussion on the particular unit. The general comments are summarized below:

Against Further Wilderness Consideration:

The Moffat County Commissioners and the Moffat County Planning Commission oppose all additional wilderness proposals in Moffat County. The Commissioners stated none of the inventory units met the inventory criteria because they contain roads and old homesteads and that civilization can be seen from almost every tract. They also feel that Dinosaur National Monument contains sufficient restricted area within Moffat County.

The Colorado First Soil Conservation District does not feel any area in Moffat County qualifies as wilderness due mainly to present land uses.

Colo. Wyo. Coal Co. commented that additional wilderness in Moffat County could hinder energy development and related water developments.

One comment opposed additional wilderness in Grand County because it would restrict access by motorized vehicles.

One comment opposed additional wilderness in Northwestern Colorado. They feel wilderness designations would attract more people and that the land is available now in a generally natural condition and does not need more restrictive management.

The Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners provided a list of State Lands either in or adjacent to the recommended inventory units. The Board stated that the State's rights are sovereign and that access to the Trust Lands can not be denied.

Public Service Company of Colorado commented on the conflicts between Wilderness Study Area's and proposed corridors for power lines and pipelines.

Texaco addressed the effect Class I air quality designation could have on oil shale development.

Five comments were received recommending against units that BLM had not originally recommended. There apparently was a misunderstanding of the inventory process. All BLM lands were included in an inventory unit resulting in some 1200 inventory units statewide. Only 117 of the units were originally recommended by BLM for further consideration.

For Further Wilderness Consideration

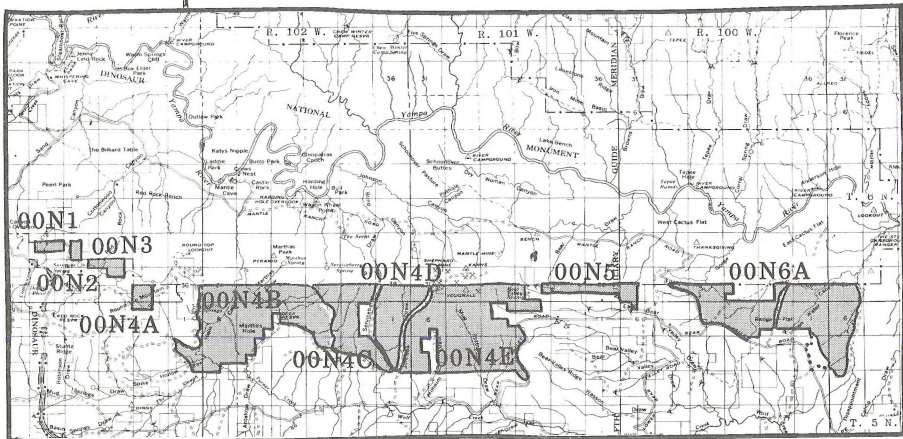
Twenty nine comments were received supporting further consideration of the 117 units (43 in the Craig District) originally recommended by BLM.

Fourteen comments recommended addition of 28 areas (10 in the Craig District) not originally recommended by BLM. These units are discussed elsewhere in this publication.

Several comments requested BLM to consider all lands adjacent to Forest Service RARE II lands regardless of the Forest Service recommendation. (Note: BLM policy states that the Bureau will consider lands less than 5,000 acres and adjacent to National Forest lands only if the Forest Service has recommended the adjoining lands for wilderness or further study.)

1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location:

Adjacent to southern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument - ten small units, each less than 5,000 acres (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Size: Multiple Units, see below
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-N1, N2, N3, N4A,
N4B, N4C, N4D, N4E, N5,
N6A
Area Name: Dinosaur Adjacent Areas
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Size: N1 - 110 acres	N4d - 1,200 acres
N2 - 80 acres	N4e - 4,500 acres
N3 - 320 acres	N5 - 560 acres
N4a - 240 acres	N6a - 3,800 acres
N4b - 4,100 acres	
N4c - 1,600 acres	TOTAL - 16,410 acres

No easements or mining activity are known to exist. Grazing is authorized on most of the unit, and numerous oil and gas leases cover the unit. Existing uses include grazing and ranching, and permanent improvements in the form of check dams, spring improvement, and fences support these uses. Steep to rolling hills characterize the land form, while sagebrush and mountainbrush constitute the vegetation. Dinosaur National Monument lies to the north and has been proposed for inclusion in the same wilderness system. Lands to the east, west and south are intermixed public and private.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

Unit N6A: Public comment and a resulting field check led to the determination of a road bisecting Unit N6A in Sec. 2, T5N, R100W, and Sec. 35, T6N, R100W. The road services the Cactus Flat Area within the Monument as well as the adjoining grazing lands. It is maintained on an as-needed basis.

In Sec. 12, T5N, R100W, a chained area was excluded because it is substantially noticeable. The area is covered with dead Pinyon-Juniper making man's activity a significant imprint.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- N1 - No specific comments were received.
- N2 - No specific comments were received.
- N3 - No specific comments were received.
- N4a - No specific comments were received.
- N4b - No specific comments were received.
- N4c - A comment and photos were received concerning an old homestead or habitation in Serviceberry Draw (Sec. 36) and the road in Serviceberry Draw (boundary road between N4d and N4c). Also mentioned were a reservoir and fence near the head of Serviceberry Draw, allotment fences and a road in Hammond Draw that is maintained annually by heavy equipment (boundary road between N4d and N4e).
- N4d - A comment and photos addressed maintenance of a road in Hammond Draw, which stated that it is maintained by clearing rocks and sagebrush but grass is left to limit erosion (boundary road between N4d and N4e).
- N4e - A comment and photos were received on the Mud Springs reservoir and graded access. Also received were comments and photos on the tank at Mantle Spring, the watering troughs, a buried pipeline, and associated access roads.
- N5 - One comment addressed the non-wilderness quality of the unit, plus the presence of stock trails and reservoirs.
- N6a - One comment addresses the road into Cactus Flats and states that it is maintained on an as-needed basis. The unit was divided along this road.
Three comments addressed the fact that this unit is less than 5,000 acres. The unit will be intensively inventoried because it is adjacent to DNM which has been recommended for wilderness.
Two comments addressed the naturalness of the general area but did not provide information specific to Unit N6a.
Two comments addressed the oil and gas potential of the general area. This will be considered in the study phase should the unit become a wilderness study area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The units are less than 5,000 acres individually, but are contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument, which has been recommended by the



National Park Service for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.
The units show few signs of the imprints of man.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

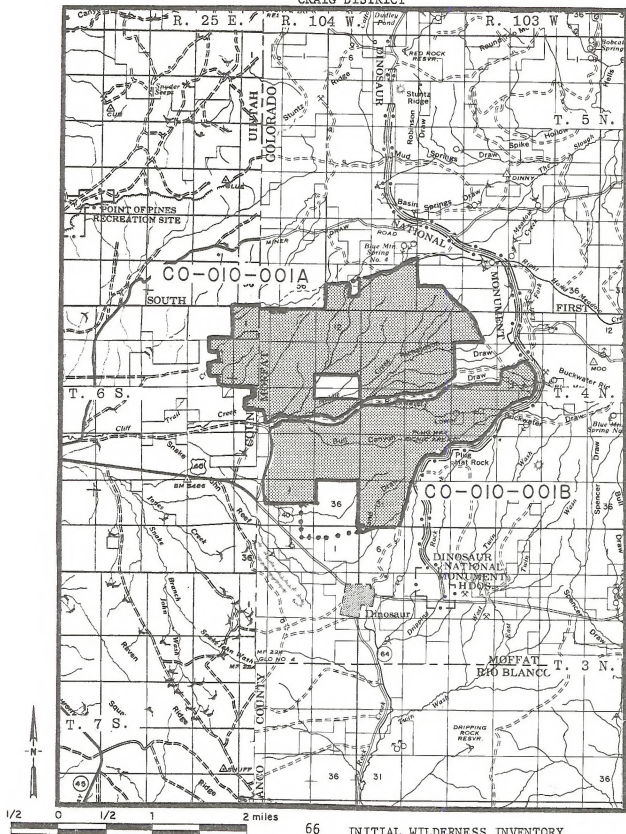
229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 290, 289

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Stunts Res., Hell's Canyon,
Tanks Pk., Haystack Rock,
Indian Water Canyon, M.F. Mt.,
Skull Creek

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



Note: The intensive wilderness inventory was accelerated on these areas so that the wilderness inventory information would be available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. These areas have been determined to qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and have been recommended as such. The final decision on whether these areas will become WSA's will be made in 1980 when the remainder of the intensive inventory recommendations for Colorado have been completed and reviewed by the public.

General Location:
North of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION
Size: 9,270 acres in both Colorado and Utah
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-001A
Area Name: K-Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit straddles the Utah-Colorado border. (Utah Unit UT-080-419 forms the Utah portion of the area.) No easements, mining activity, or permanent improvements are known to exist. Grazing is authorized on a portion of the unit, and numerous oil and gas leases have been issued. Uses include grazing and ranching activities. Landform in this unit is characterized by extremely steep to precipitous rimrock and talus slopes. Vegetation consists primarily of sparse pinyon/juniper. The land to the north is private, and to the south is inventory unit CO-010-001B.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

Approximately 40 acres of private land, in Section 31, T5N, R103W, along the northern end of the unit was excluded. The new boundary deletes the private land that was inadvertently included within the Initial Inventory boundary.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment claims that the unit is not roadless but no specific rationale is given. BLM analysis is that the unit is essentially roadless.

Outstanding Opportunities: One comment maintains that the unit fails to satisfy the criteria in the Inventory Handbook and is in fact only "average" and not outstanding.

Naturalness: One general comment said that human imprints are noticeable.

General Comments:

Of concern is the private and State lands that lie in the vicinity of the unit and the potential for oil and gas development and existing leases in the region. Outside influences such as Highway 40 were mentioned. Also, concern over Class I air quality designation was expressed.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit is of sufficient size, generally natural in appearance, offers opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, and in conjunction with Utah BLM lands, meets the criteria for further wilderness study.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
286	Snake John Reef
Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad:	NW-7

General Location:
North of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 7,510 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-001B
Area Name: Bull Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements, mining activity, or permanent improvements are located on the unit. One grazing lease and numerous oil and gas leases have been issued. The primary uses are grazing and ranching-related. Some reseeding and waterbars exist as a result of a forest fire. Landform is characterized by extremely steep to precipitous rimrock and talus slopes. Vegetation consists primarily of sparse pinyon-juniper. Contiguous lands are all BLM, with proposed wilderness inventory unit CO-010-001A to the north.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

The following adjustment has been made to eliminate small, narrow fingers of public land that extended from the unit and created an irregular configuration:
1) Narrow, extruding fingers of the unit in Section 35, T40N, R104W, Section 1 and 2, T3N, R104W.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: A comment addressed an access road to private land in Section 35, T4N, R104W, and crosses proposed Unit lands in E1/2NE1/4 of Section 2, T3N, R104W, and Sections 35 and 26, T4N, R104W. In addition, a network of roads was mentioned. BLM analysis did not result in any changes.



General Comments:

A comment expressed concern over important oil and gas reserves, as well as general statements that the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria. Outside influences such as private lands and the proximity of Highway 40 were mentioned. The comment also suggested that the area was not roadless and also was not outstanding, but only average. Another comment expressed concern over air quality Class I designation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size and is generally free of the imprints of man. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are present.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

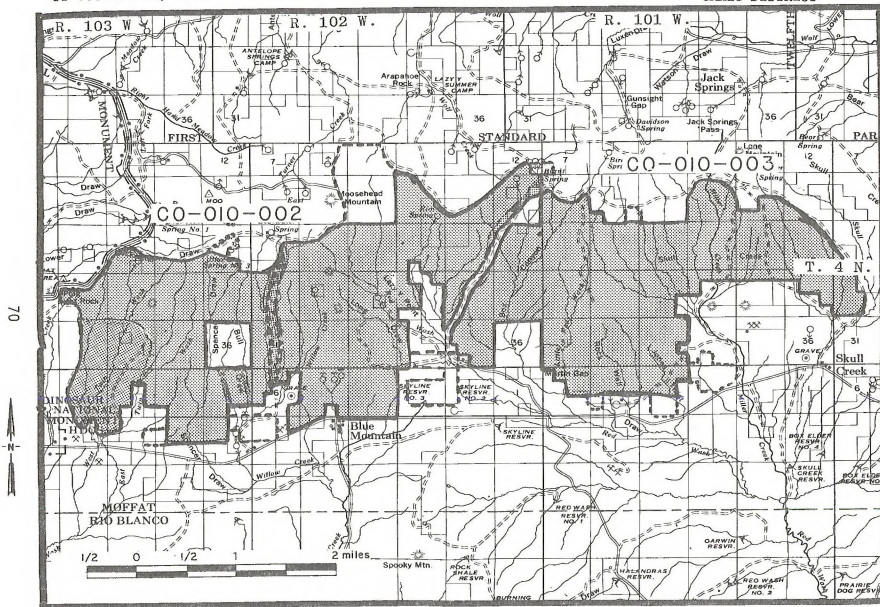
286

Snake John Reef, Utah-Colorado
Plug Hat Rock

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



Note: The intensive inventory was accelerated on these areas so that the wilderness inventory information would be available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. These areas have been determined to qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and have been recommended as such. The final decision on whether these areas will become WSA's will be made in 1980 when the remainder of the intensive inventory recommendations for Colorado have been completed and reviewed by the public.

General Location:
East of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 18,080 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-002
Area Name: Willow Creek
State: Colorado

When the original inventory was done in this area, a road was identified between Units 2A (Twin Wash) and 2B (Lazy Y Point). Subsequent field check in August 1979 determined that this boundary "road" did not meet the definition of a road as used in the BLM inventory process. Units 2A and 2B were combined into one unit and renamed "Willow Creek".

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements, mining activity, or permanent improvements are known to exist. Some grazing is authorized in the western and southern portions of the unit, and oil and gas leases are presently under moratorium. Existing uses include grazing, hunting, and snowmobiling. Rugged and broken topography characterize the unit, as do the pinyon-juniper trees. Lands to the east are proposed for further wilderness study (Unit CO-010-3); to the south and north lie a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

The following adjustments have been made to exclude private and State lands:

- 1) State land in Section 36, T4N, R103W.
- 2) Private land in Section 12, T4N, R102W, was excluded along the northeast corner of the unit.

The following adjustments have been made to eliminate small, narrow fingers of public land that extended from the unit and created an irregular configuration:

- 1) Narrow finger in Sections 10 and 11, T3N, R103W.
- 2) Narrow finger in Section 7, T3N, R102W and Section 12, T3N, R103W.
- 3) Narrow finger in Section 24, T3N, R102W.
- 4) Narrow, extruding fingers of unit in Sections 2 and 3, T3N, R102W, and Sections 34 and 35, T4N, R102W.
- 5) Narrow, protruding finger created by the exclusion of a State section of land. The deleted finger is along the northern boundary in Sections 8, 9, and 17, T4N, R102W.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment said that there were numerous vehicle-made trails and at least one road which has been partially graded. No specific locations were given. Another comment stated the opinion that roads are not constructed and maintained. A third comment said the area was not roadless. A fourth comment said that a network of roads, used and maintained regularly as necessary by the local people is located in

T3N, R102W, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
T4N, R102W, Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34 and 35
T3N, R102W, Section 2, SW1/4NW1/4

BLM analysis is that ways exist in the unit, but it is roadless as defined by the wilderness review process.

Naturalness: One comment stated that imprints of man are noticeable throughout the unit. Another noted the presence of an old abandoned log cabin and corral. A third comment described the unit as semi-natural. A fourth mentioned a drill hole and watering trough within the unit.

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: One comment expressed the opinion that opportunities for solitude are substantial and year-round camping possible. The presence of springs were also noted. Another comment said that opportunities for the above were good. A third comment said that outside influences were not conducive to solitude or primitive recreation.

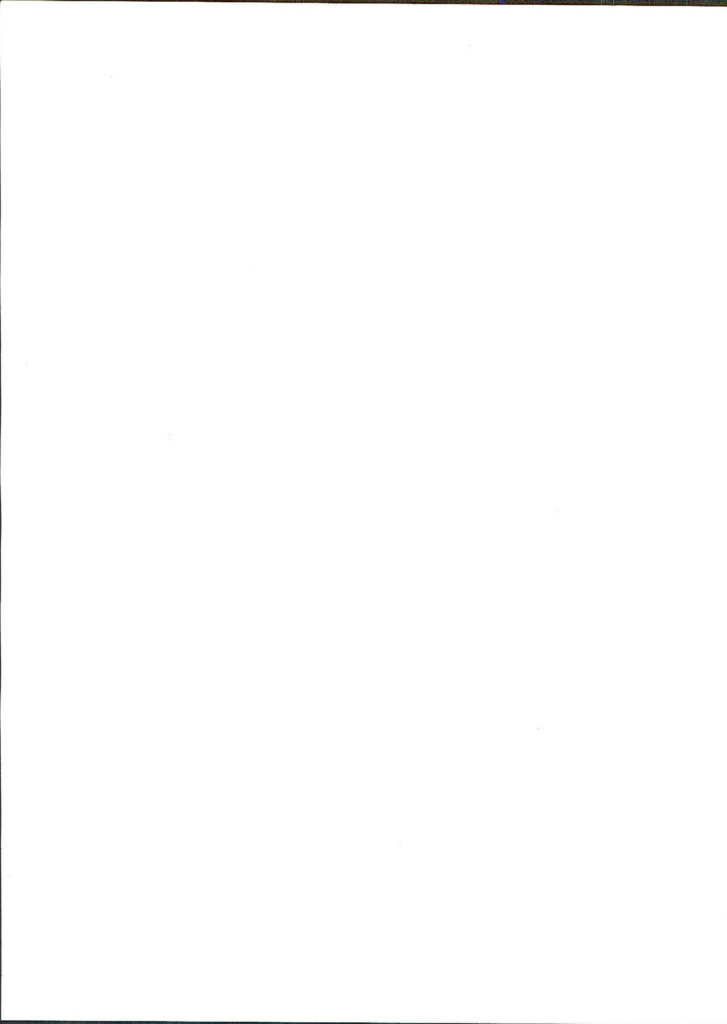
Supplemental Values: One comment reported the sighting of a golden eagle while visiting the unit.

General Comments:

One comment mentioned oil and gas potential and near-surface presence of radioactive materials that may be found in the springs. Further, the unit is close to Highway 40 and outside influences are not conducive to solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The same comment expressed concern over private land in the area and held the opinion that the unit was only average and not outstanding. A second comment over air quality Class I designation was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size and is generally free of imprints of man. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are present.



REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
286, 287, 288,	Sneke John Reef, Plug Hat Rock,
343, 344,	Lazy Y Point, Dinosaur,
289	Mellen Hill, Skull Creek

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7

General Location:

East of Dinosaur, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,000 acres	Inventory #: CO-010-003
District: Craig	Area Name: Skull Creek
	State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area contains no easements nor any known mining activity. Some grazing has been authorized, mostly on the southern and eastern edges of the unit. Oil and gas leases exist, but are under moratorium. A few abandoned homesteads evidence previous farming and grazing of the area, but present human activities involve hunting, snowmobiling, and archeological research. Lands to the east and west are mostly BLM, with considerable private land extending north and south. Dinosaur National Monument lies approximately eight miles north. The unit is characterized by rugged, broken topography and is heavily wooded with pinyon-juniper vegetation.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

The following adjustment has been made to eliminate small, narrow fingers of Public Land that extend from the unit and create an irregular configuration:

- 1) Narrow, extruding fingers of unit in Sections 3, 4 and 34, T4N, R101W, Section 4, and Section 5, T3N, R101W, along the southern boundary.
- 2) Narrow finger in Section 17, T4N, R101W.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment addressed roads that exist in the unit and are maintained as needed by the local people. The same letter specifically identified drilling sites and stated that roads were constructed for the drilling sites. Another comment stated that several roads are at least partially maintained in the area and numerous vehicle trails exist. Another comment maintains that roads in the area are used to maintain water sources and look after livestock. A fourth comment said that roads in the area do not appear to be constructed or maintained and submitted photos and maps. A fifth comment, documented by photos and map, addressed roads in the unit. BLM analysis is that roads are in fact ways and that the unit is roadless.

Naturalness: Specific comment that mining activity occurs in the SE1/4 of Section 33 and NW1/4 of Section 35, T4N, R101W. Another comment said that numerous prospect pits exist. A third comment mentioned a drift fence in the unit. Several old building sites are reportedly visible in the unit according to another comment.

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: One comment rated opportunities as fair to good. Another said that scenic quality is fairly high, opportunities for solitude substantial, and the potential for year-round camping exists.

General Comments:

Concern over oil and gas potential in area as well as near-surface radioactive material that may contaminate percolating water. The same comment addressed imprints and roadlessness but wasn't specific. Also mentioned were the opinions that the area was not outstanding and that outside influences would not be conducive to solitude or primitive recreation. Another comment expressed concern over the uranium potential of area. Concern over Class I air quality designation was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

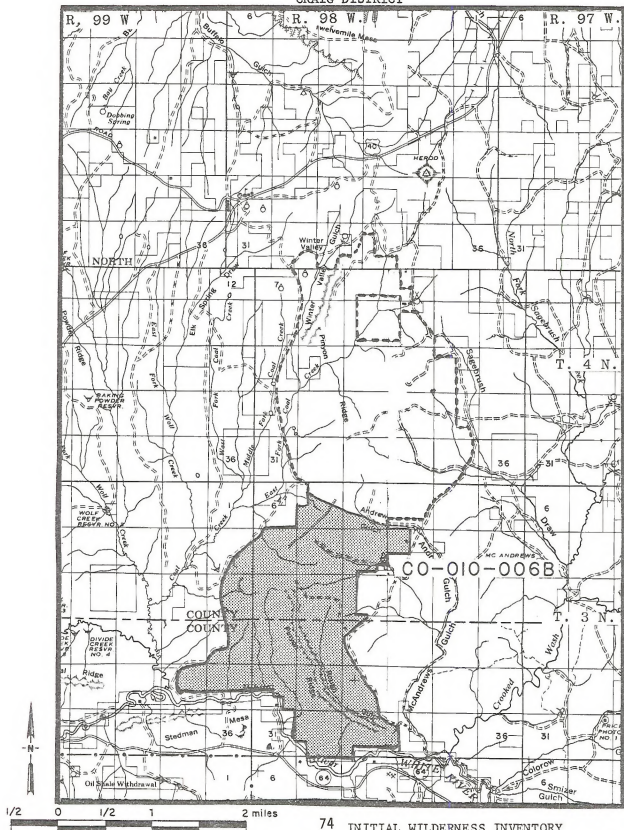
The area is of sufficient size, generally free of the imprints of man, and offers opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
286, 287, 288	Sneke John Reef, Plug Hat Rock,
343, 344	Lazy Y Point, Dinosaur,
289	Mellen Hill, Skull Creek

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



Note: The intensive inventory was accelerated on these areas so that the wilderness inventory information would be available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. These areas have been determined to qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and have been recommended as such. The final decision on whether these areas will become WSA's will be made in 1980 when the remainder of the intensive inventory recommendations for Colorado have been completed and reviewed by the public.

General Location:
Southwest of Maybell, Colorado (Neffat County-Rio Blanco County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:	Inventory #: CO-010-006B
Size: 8,778 Acres	Area Name: Pinyon Ridge
District: Craig	State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area contains no known easements, mining activity or other permanent improvements. Existing uses include winter grazing and hunting, and the area is under oil and gas lease. The surrounding lands are public, with scattered private holdings making up the remaining contiguous lands. Some oil and gas activities are apparent to the north and east. Generally, the dominant features are pinyon-juniper and gently rolling hills, with occasional steep slopes. Pinyon Ridge runs the length of the unit, rising 200-300 feet.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

In response to public comment and as a result of re-evaluation of the unit, deletions were made as follows:

- 1) Exclusion of a road system used by sheep and cattle ranchers and for oil and gas exploration that is bladed and bulldozed. (Sections 15, 21, 22, 28, 33, T4N, R98W).
- 2) Exclusion of a producing oil well and a road system that at one time served Winter Valley Oil and Gas Field. It is mechanically man-made and constitutes a substantial imprint upon the landscape. The system generally lies in Sections 32, 33 and 34 of T28, R98W, and Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, T4N, R98W. Some of the roads have received continuous use since 1958.
- 3) The above exclusions have deleted a major portion of the northern section of the unit. A narrow, irregular finger remained, which is less than a section wide at the narrow neck connecting it to the bulk of the southern section of the unit. This narrow finger that extends from the northern portion of the southern section was deleted because of its narrow configuration and its protruding nature. Deletions include part of the following Sections: 5, 15, 16, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, T4N, R98W.
- 4) The original acreage was in error. Re-calculations show that the original unit acreage should be approximately 17,068.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Comment was received about the unit stating that roads do in fact exist and described the location of road systems. BLM analyzed the comments and made adjustments accordingly.

Naturalness: Comment was received on the location of seismic lines in the area, as well as numerous sheep camps and cow camps. An additional comment stated that numerous roads exist in the unit and the imprint of man is predominant in White River streambed river.

General Comments:

Concern was expressed over deposits of coal and oil and gas that exist in the area and the delay of exploration activities. Also expressed was a concern over Class I air quality designation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is of sufficient size and is generally free of human activity and permanent improvements, and offers opportunities for solitude.

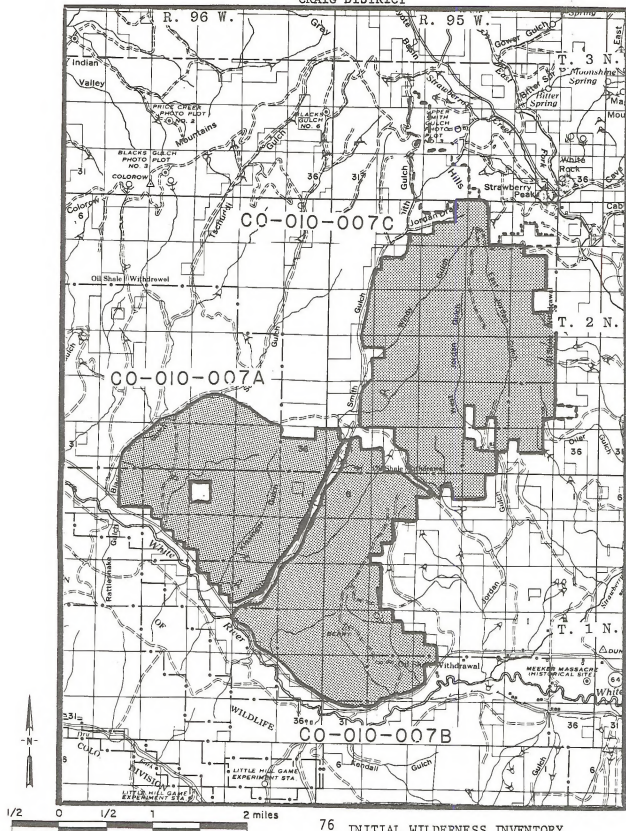
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
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0290	M.F. Mountain
0291	Elk Springs
0347	Divide Creek
0348	Rough Gulch

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7, NW-8

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



76 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

Note: The intensive inventory was accelerated on these areas so that the wilderness inventory information would be available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. These areas have been determined to qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and have been recommended as such. The final decision on whether these areas will become WSA's will be made in 1980 when the remainder of the intensive inventory recommendations for Colorado have been completed and reviewed by the public.

General Location:
West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 7,453 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-007A
Area Name: Black Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area contains no easements, mining activity, or any permanent improvements. Some grazing is authorized, and numerous oil and gas leases exist in the area, and presently some grazing activities are apparent on the peripheral areas. Two small earthen reservoirs are the only significant manipulations of the land. Rolling to steep hills characterize the unit, with pinyon-juniper trees dominating the vegetation. Lands to the north and west are public; to the east is BLM unit CO-010-007B, proposed for wilderness study; to the south is private land adjoining State Road #64.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Comment was received concerning the maintenance of a road to private land and access to reservoirs. Another comment addressed the road in Smith Gulch, stating that Smith Gulch is a pretty good roadway and the rest of the area is essentially roadless. A third comment stated that a maintained road exists in Blacks Gulch. BLM analysis didn't result in any changes.

Naturalness: Comment about pipeline and reservoirs present. An additional comment concerned existing uses such as grazing and ORV use.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Comment that primitive and solitude aspects are not applicable because of grazing and ORV activity. Another comment addressed the lack of primitive recreation due to little rain, no fishing, too hot in summer and presence of rattlesnakes.

General Comments:

Ranchers expressed their concern over possible loss of vehicle access in the areas. Several comments concerning mineral potential and energy exploration. One comment felt that the units (7A, 7B, 7C) should not be combined. A general comment stated that the area should be excluded from further study due to roads, size and naturalness. A comment expressing concern over Class I air quality designations was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size, is generally free of permanent improvements and imprints of man, and offers opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0406 Barcus Creek S.E.
0407 White River City
0408 Buckskin Point

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-14

General Location:
West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 9,250 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-007B
Area Name: Berry Point
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area contains no known easements, mining activity, or permanent improvements. Some grazing is authorized, and numerous oil and gas leases exist in the unit, but the only human activity involves light ranching. Grazing is apparent on the periphery. Rolling to occasionally steep hills characterize the topography, with pinyon-juniper trees dominating the vegetation types.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Comments concerning boundary road between 7A and 7B. Also two comments on a way that gives access to private land in the unit. Several comments on the proximity of Highway 64. A comment stated that a road crosses Sections 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 29 of T1N, R35W. BLM analysis did not result in changes.

Primitive Recreation Potential: A comment that the area receives little rain, is too hot in summer, contains rattlesnakes and no potential for fishing.

Naturalness: Comment on livestock and grazing activity.

General Comments: Ranchers expressed concern over possible loss of vehicle access in the area. Several comments concerning mineral potential and energy



exploration. One comment felt that the units (7A, 7B, 7C) should not be combined. A general comment was received that stated that the area should be excluded from further study due to roads, size and naturalness. A comment expressing concern over Class I air quality was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size, is generally free of permanent improvements and imprints of man, and offers opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0406 Barcus Creek S.E.
0407 White River City
0408 Buckskin Point

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-14

General Location:
West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,565 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-007C
Area Name: Windy Gulch
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area contains no easements or mining activity. Some grazing is authorized, and grazing activity is present on the unit's periphery. Numerous oil and gas leases have been issued. The only permanent improvements are several earthen reservoirs, and no other land improvement or manipulations are present. Steep to rolling slopes characterize the landform, with sagebrush and mountain brush constituting the dominant vegetation. The unit is bordered by BLM to the north, east, and west, and private land on the south.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

The following adjustments have been made to eliminate small, narrow fingers of public land that extend from the unit and create an irregular configuration:

- 1) Section 25, T2N, R95W, along the eastern boundary of unit.
- 2) Sections 2 and 3, T2N, R95W, along the northeastern boundary of unit.
- 3) Sections 20, 29, 28, 32 and 33, T3N, R95W, along the north boundary of unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: A comment was received on a road in Section 3, 10, 15, 26 and 27 of T1N, R95W.

Ownership: A comment that private land is located in Sections 27 and 34, T1N, R95W. This resulted in a change on the BLM maps.

Primitive Recreation: A comment stated that opportunities are limited due to lack of water and hot temperatures. Further, the comment said that the area was only good for hunting and only if you are able to drive in.

General Comments:

Ranchers expressed concern over possible loss of vehicle access in the area. Several comments concerning mineral potential and energy exploration were received. One comment felt that the units (7A, 7B, 7C) should not be considered together. A general comment was received that stated that the area should be excluded from further study due to roads, size and naturalness. Additionally, a comment expressing concern over Class I air quality was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size, is generally free of permanent improvement and imprints of man, and offers opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. topographic Quad:

350 Indian Valley
351 White Rock
407 White River City
408 Buckskin Point

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-8, NW-14



General Location:
Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 45,023 acres (includes Utah)
District: Craig/Vernal

Inventory #: CO-010-208/UT-080-103
Area Name: Cold Springs
State: Colorado/Utah

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease except for a small portion in the southeast corner. Two miles of pipeline run across the north central part of the unit. Permanent improvements include one mile of fence in the northwest portion of the unit and several reservoirs. No mining claims are known to exist. The primary use is grazing, but dispersed recreational activities are also prevalent. One archeological site has been identified. Rugged, rocky, dry terrain with steep slopes characterize the unit; juniper, pinyon and sagebrush make up the dominant vegetation. The land is contiguous with CO-010-208 and is north of Brown's Park Wildlife Refuge.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

As a result of public comment a field check was made excluding 1,587 acres. The adjustment excluded roads and an irrigation ditch in the S.W. part of both 010-208 and 080-103.

Deletions:

In Sec. 36, 35 and 24, T11N, R104W, the boundary was altered to omit a road and irrigation ditch.

Also in Sec. 35, 26, T2N, R25E, in Utah the boundary was adjusted to omit 2 roads.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.
Roads: One comment addressed the roads in the S.W. corner of the unit, where the boundary adjustment was made.
Naturalness: One specific comment addressed the naturalness of this unit. Grazing improvements were identified but found to be minor.

General Comments:

All Utah's comments were general in relation to roads and imprints throughout the unit. None were specific and no changes were made due to these comments.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

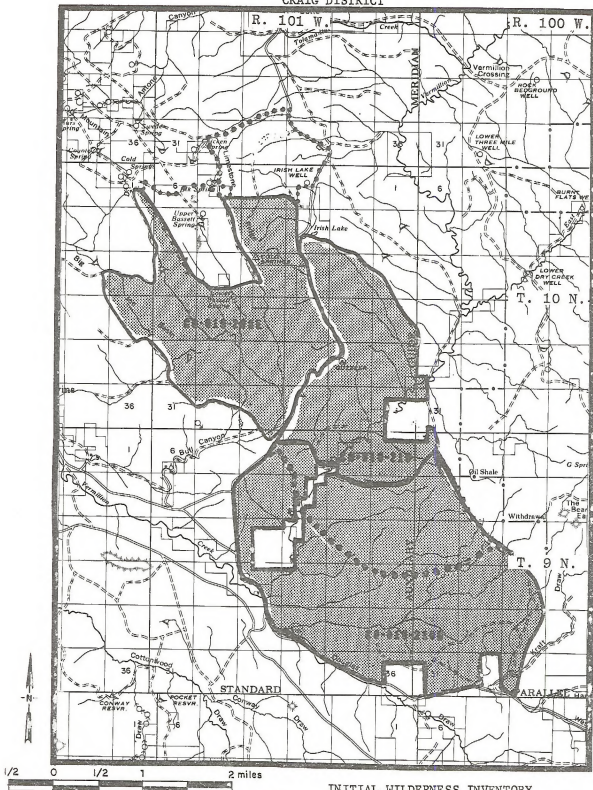
The area is of sufficient size and is generally free of permanent improvements and evidence of man.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
0001	Willow Creek Butte
0002	Beaver Basin
0038	Swallow Canyon
0059	Ledore School
0060	Big Joe Basin

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



General Location:
Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 8,740 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-208E
Area Name: Limestone
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

All Easements include twelve miles of powerline and telephone line along the eastern border. No mining claims are known to exist. Reservoirs are scattered throughout the entire unit. Three miles of fence run through the center. The primary use is grazing, while human activity is mostly limited to hunting. Steep slopes, canyons, and a rocky terrain characterize the topography. Pinyon-juniper in the southwest and sagebrush in the northeast constitute the dominant vegetation. The unit is contiguous to proposed BLM study areas CO-010-208 and CO-010-210.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Many roads, ways, seismograph trails and grazing improvements are substantially noticeable imprints, causing a boundary adjustment on the northern portion of this unit. The initial acreage is changed to exclude the imprints to 8,740 acres.

Deletions:

In Sec. 8, 17, 26, 7, 18, T10N, R101W, the boundary was altered to omit a road and noticeable seismograph trail.

In Sec. 32, 33, 34, T11N, R101W, the boundary was altered to omit a road, grazing improvements and noticeable seismograph trail.

A noticeable water pipeline through Sec. 3 and 4, T10N, R101W and Sec. 32, T11N, R101W was omitted.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.
Roads and Naturalness: One comment by the grazing permittee identified maintained roads and some permanent grazing improvements. These were found to be major imprints of man and excluded from the unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is generally free of permanent improvements and evidence of man.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 6,080 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-210
Area Name: Irish Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

A small portion of private land is south of the unit, and one section of state-owned land is located in the center. No known mining claims have been discovered. Permanent improvements include ten miles of telephone and power lines outside the western boundary and reservoirs scattered throughout the northern portion. Uses include winter grazing and hunting. Mostly rugged terrain, with canyons and rolling hills, characterize the unit's topography. The dominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper, saltbrush, and sagebrush. The unit is contiguous to two proposed BLM wilderness units (O-010-208E and O-010-210D).

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

The southern boundary of this unit has been altered due to a misplaced road, and a powerline and right-of-way has been excluded along the western boundary.

Deletions:

In Sec. 23, 26, 27 and 10, T10N, R101W, along the western boundary a powerline was omitted changing the original boundary only 25 feet.

The southern boundary is altered because of an error in the original boundary road.

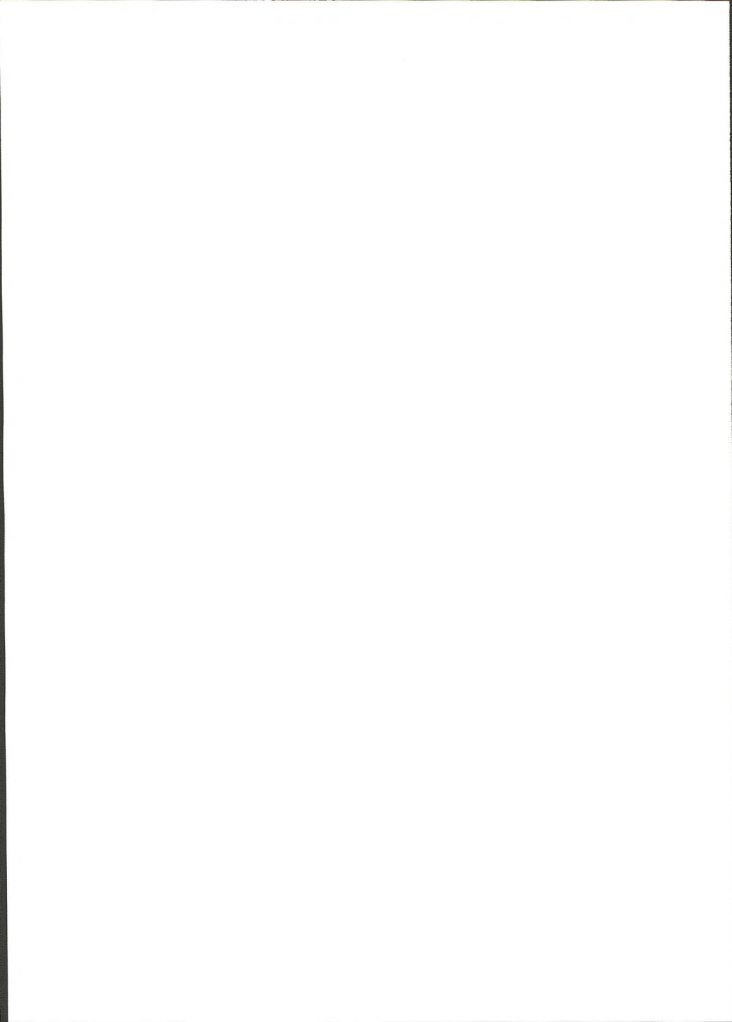
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.
Roads and Naturalness: Two comments concern naturalness and roads. One identified the road which altered the southern boundary. The other identified a road which is the existing N.E. boundary.

General Comments: One general comment stating that this unit should not be wilderness and the potential for uranium exist within this area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is basically free of evidence of man. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation appear to be present.



UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 16,960 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-210D

Area Name: Douglas Draw
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Scattered tracts of private and state lands exist within the unit. No easements or mining claims are found, but the unit is under oil and gas lease. Nine miles of fence are located in the southern portions of the unit. Uses include winter grazing and hunting. Sagebrush and piñon-juniper characterize the unit's vegetation; the topography consists of south-facing slopes with rolling mountains and semi-rough terrain. The unit is surrounded by BLM lands, and proposed BLM wilderness inventory unit #CO-010-210 lies to the north.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Due to the northern boundary being misplaced, and a road being identified, an adjustment occurs including 6,190 more acres.

Additions:

6,190 acres have been added into the northern portion as a result of a road being misplaced. The original road was found to be a 'way' causing the northern boundary to be altered.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: No comments concerned the size of the unit.

Roads/Naturelness: Comment was received identifying a road within the unit. This was found to be the northern boundary of this unit but misplaced. The boundary has been moved north to include 6,190 more acres of Public Land.

General Comments: One comment stating that this unit should not be wilderness and the potential for uranium exists within this area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is free enough of man's intrusion to warrant further study.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

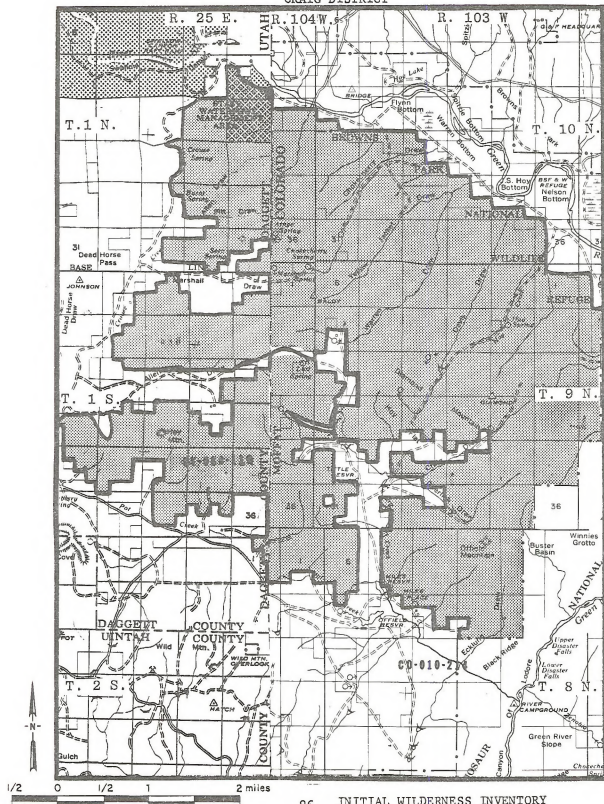
0003
0059, 0060, 0061
117
118

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Sparks, Lodore School
Big Joe Basin, Irish Canyon
Jack Springs
Vermillion Mesa

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1.

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Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



General Location: Extreme Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 33,790 acres
District: Craig/Vernal

Inventory #: CO-010-214/UT-080-113
Area Name: Diamond Breaks
State: Colorado/Utah

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit straddles the Utah-Colorado border, with 24,470 acres in Colorado and 8,250 acres in Utah. No easements, leases or mining claims are known to exist. Two old log structures located in the southern portion of the unit are the only permanent improvements. Uses include winter cattle grazing and hunting. Most of the unit is pinyon-juniper, with scattered areas of sage. The land form is characterized by steep irregular slopes, separated by flat-bottomed valleys. The unit is contiguous to a Utah unit. To the east is Dinosaur National Monument proposed wilderness.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

No adjustments are made.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.

Roads/Naturalness: One comment concerned roads, ways and grazing improvements. It is found that there are only ways and the impacts are only minor.

General Comments:

Utah's comments were all general addressing the conflicts with present land uses. Such comments are not applicable at this stage of the inventory, but will be considered later.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size, as well as being contiguous to areas of proposed wilderness. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are great, and few evidences of man exist.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 10,644 acres
District: Vernal/Craig

Inventory #: UT-080-110
Area Name: Hoy Mountain
State: Colorado/Utah

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

A 40-acre parcel of private land lies within the unit. The unit spans the Utah-Colorado border, with 5,794 acres in Utah and 4,900 in Colorado. No easements, mining claims, or leases are known to exist. Permanent improvements include 4.5 miles of ways, 5 developed springs, one BLM reservoir, 1/2 mile of water pipeline, and 10.5 miles of fences. Uses include summer grazing, hunting, and sight-seeing. Predominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper, with pine and fir on Hoy Mountain. Hoy Mountain is a rugged peak surrounded by privately owned flat bottomlands. The area is surrounded by private property, except for one 1.3 mile strip where it is contiguous to BLM lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

A boundary adjustment was made due to a road located, verified by public comment. The road segregates a portion of the unit, deleting a 196 acre portion in the northwestern corner of the unit in Utah. Also a road was identified by public and field check in the northeastern corner of the unit in Colorado.

Deletions:

In Sec. 21, 20, T1S, R25E in Utah, a road alters the boundary omitting 196 acres from the unit.

In Sec. 24 and 19, T9N, R104W, a road is excluded as shown on the map.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

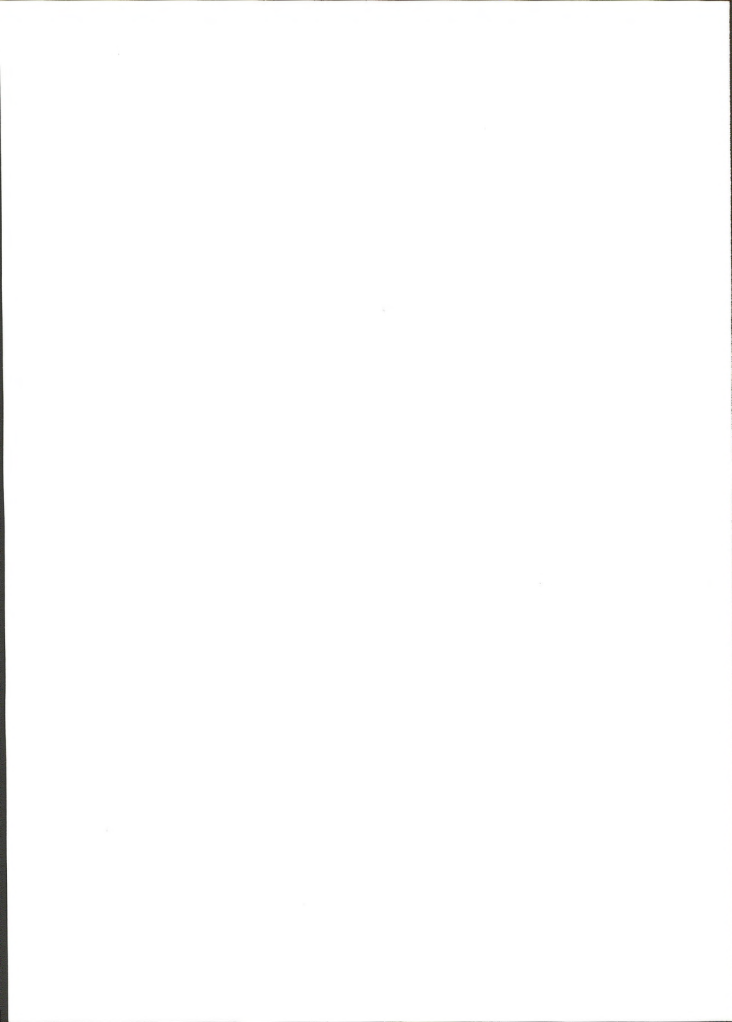
Size: One comment was concerned that this unit does not meet the size criteria. This unit is 10,890 acres meeting the 5,000 acre requirement.

Road/Naturalness: Utah received 2 comments concerned with 2 roads within the unit. These roads have been excluded as a result of the comments and field exam.

General Comments: Eight comments were general in nature and were directed to matters not applicable at this stage of the inventory, but will be considered later.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.



REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0058	Swallow Canyon
0059	Lodore School
0115	Boy Mountain
0116	Canyon of Lodore North

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1

General Location: Adjacent to Northern and Eastern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Inventory #: CO-010-21a,
218A, 224, 224A,
226, 227, 228,
229d, 271/N6B

Size: Multiple Units, see below.
District: Craig

Area Name: Dinosaur Adjacent Units
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Size: 218 - 8,230 acres	227 - 240 acres
218A - 1,900 acres	228 - 6,200 acres
224 - 5,210 acres	229D - 6,900 acres
224A - 1,320 acres	271/N6B - 4,800 acres
226 - 4,880 acres	Total 39,680 acres

Two pipelines have easements in the north section of unit #226. Oil and gas leases are found on #229D, #271, and #218. The only mining claim involves an active copper operation north of unit #226. Reservoirs, check dams and fences exist throughout the unit. Grazing is the primary use on all units, with selective cutting (1978) only on northern portions of units #226 and #228. All units are mostly pinyon-juniper with patches of sagebrush throughout. The units are rough and rugged with rocky terrain and steep canyons. All units border Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) Proposed Wilderness Area. Unit #271/N6B are one unit. A BLM Resource Area Boundary divides the unit into two administrative jurisdictions.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

Based on public comment and field check, the following boundary adjustments were made:

Unit 224A: In Sections 22, 23, and 25, T7N, R102W, a road exists creating two units. This road was improved and is maintained for the ongoing ranching activities on Douglas Mtn. The southern portion, adjacent to proposed wilderness in DNM, becomes Unit 224a. The portion north of the road is dropped because it does not meet the size criteria, nor is it adjacent to DNM.

Unit N6B: In Sections 12-13, T5N, R100W, two timber cutting areas have been deleted from the area. These cutting areas are recent; therefore man's imprint is substantially noticeable.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Unit 224A: One comment identified a road which was verified by a field check and resulted in a boundary change.

Unit N6B: One comment and accompanying photos were received documenting the boundary road between Units N6A and N6B.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Many of the units are of sufficient size, while all are contiguous to a proposed wilderness area. All exhibit natural characteristics and few evidences of man.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

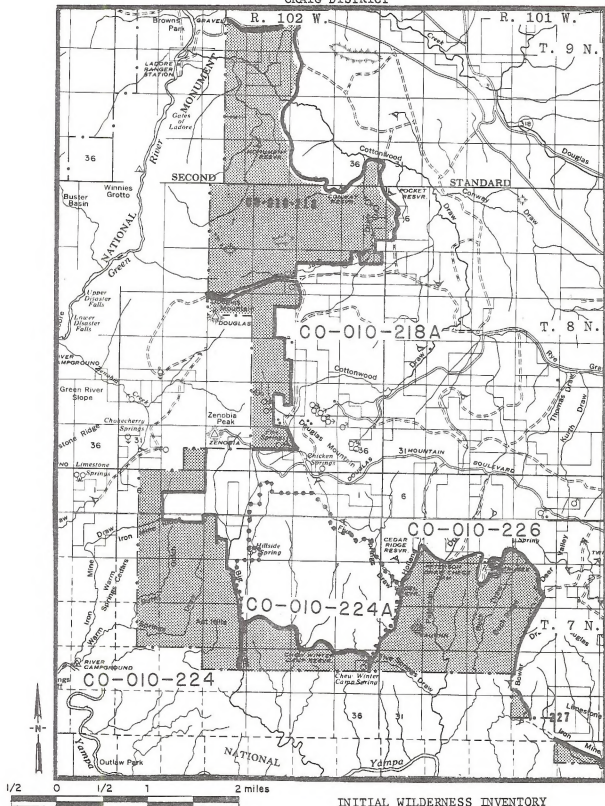
U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0116, 0117
0173, 0174, 0175
0176
0233

Canyon of Lodore North
Jack Springs, Canyon of Lodore South
Zenobia Peak Greystone
Limestone Hill, Indian Water Canyon

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1, NW-7

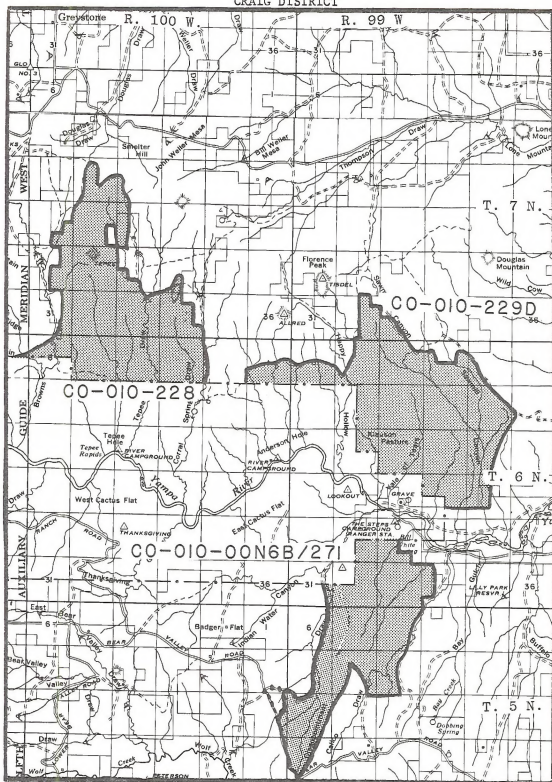
UNITED STATES
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Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



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Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT

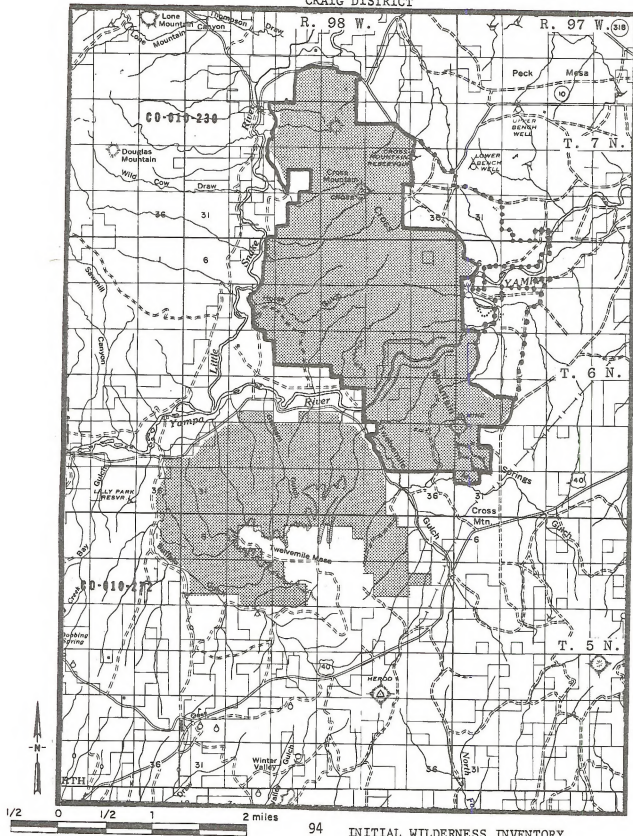


93 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



General Location: West of Maybell, Colorado (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,060 acres

District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-230

Area Name: Cross Mountain

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements are known to exist. The majority of the unit is under oil and gas lease, and a small section in the southern portion is under oil shale withdrawal. The only permanent improvement is a reservoir in the northeast corner of the unit. Grazing, hunting, and recreational hiking are the primary uses. Pinyon-juniper constitutes the dominant vegetation; flat-topped mountains and numerous steep canyons characterize the topography. The unit is contiguous to other BLM lands, none of which are recommended for intensive wilderness inventory.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

As a result of public comment and a field check, the eastern boundary has been adjusted. A road was identified running N-S through the area excluding a portion of public land.

Deletions:

In Sec. 18 and 19, T6N, R97W, a road was identified which created the boundary change on the Eastern side of the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.

Roads/Naturalness: One comment, by the grazing permittee identified a road which caused the boundary change.

General Comments: One comment was concerned that this unit should be studied for further wilderness. The Moffat Co. Planning Commission opposed the designation of this unit for wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is generally free of any evidence of man. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation appear to be present.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo map #:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0177

Love Mountain

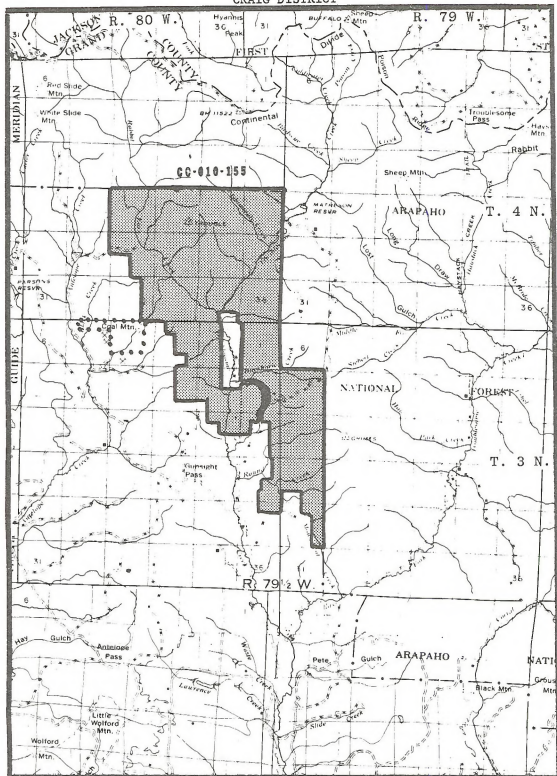
0178

Elk Springs

0234

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-7, NW-8

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
North of Kremmling (Grand County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 11,915 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-155
Area Name: Troublesome
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit contains within it two irrigation ditch easements and several oil and gas leases. No mining activity is known to exist. Permanent improvements include reservoirs, irrigation ditches, fences, and ways. Grazing is the dominant use, while hunting, snowmobiling and other dispersed recreational activities are the primary human activities present. Most of the unit is on a 45° or steeper slope, and the major vegetation is lodgepole pine. The unit is contiguous on the north and east to 60,000 acres of Rare II unit 109, which was not recommended for wilderness. Approximately 425 acres of private land are located in the unit.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Deletions:

One boundary adjustment was made to exclude 480 acres of public lands on the western boundary of the unit. This area, known as Coal Mountain, is only contiguous for 300 feet to the remainder of the Troublesome unit.

The second boundary adjustment was made to eliminate a road going to four private cabins on the private land within the interior of the Troublesome Unit. This road eliminates approximately 5 acres of public land.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

No specific comments received.

General Comments:

The owners of the private land expressed concern that access may be blocked to their property if the area were designated wilderness. In a subsequent comment, they opposed wilderness designation of the unit.

The Grand County Board of Commissioners recommended that the unit be allocated to non-wilderness uses because of the timber and mineral potential.

One comment related personal experiences in the area and encouraged further wilderness consideration.

Two comments identified potential conflicts with mineral resources.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is sufficiently large and natural in appearance.

REFERENCES:

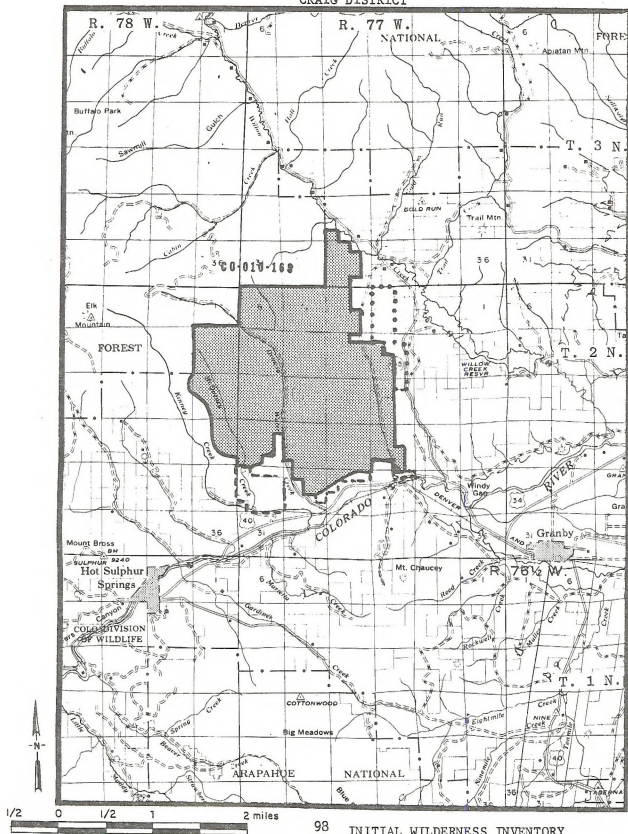
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0307
0308
0364
0365

Whiteley Pk.
Hyannis Pk.
Kremmling

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-11

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



98 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
Northwest of Granby, Colorado (Grand County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 9,870 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-168
Area Name: Drowsy Water
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit contains several easements (a pipeline, a railroad, a powerline, a railroad station). No significant mining activity is known to exist. Permanent improvements include fences, abandoned roads, stock tanks, an abandoned cabin, and a powerline on the southern border. Grazing is the dominant land use, but extensive dispersed recreational activities are also present, such as 4-wheel drive use, horseback riding, hunting, etc. The topography varies from rolling to very steep hills. Lodgepole pine and sagebrush make up the dominant vegetation. The unit is adjacent to Forest Service land not identified in the Rare II process.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Deletions:

In Section 6, T2N, R77W, clear cut units and roads in the Blowup Timber Sale were excluded. In Sections 3 and 10, T2N, R77W, clear cut units and roads which comprised the Hogback Timber Sale were excluded. The existing 69 Kilowatt power line on the southern boundary eliminates five small parcels of public land from the unit.

Approximately 480 acres were eliminated on the southwestern boundary due to the narrow configuration of this land parcel and its negative effect on solitude (Sec. 30, T2N, R77W). For the same reason, a narrow "finger" of land was removed (Sec. 3 and 10, T2N, R77W) since this parcel was 1/4 mile wide and 1 1/4 miles long.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment provided information on the roadless character of the area.

The County Commissioners commented that there are various roads in the area which would preclude a wilderness experience. No specific locations were given.

Naturalness: One comment noted few impacts on the naturalness of the unit.

General Comments:

The Grand County Board of Commissioners recommended that the area be allocated to non-wilderness uses because the area is an isolated unit and would provide little opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

One comment addressed the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined type of recreation and encouraged further consideration.

Two comments identified potential conflicts with mineral resources.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is generally free of permanent improvements and evidence of man.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

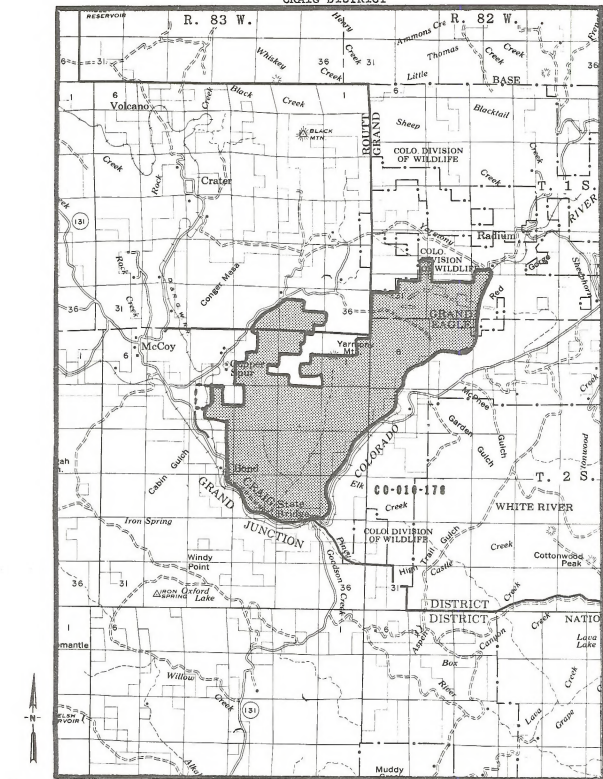
U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0366
0367
0423
0424

Hot Sulphur Springs

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-11, NW-17

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



100

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
North of State Bridge, Colorado (Grand County-Eagle County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 9,590 acres
District: Craig

Inventory #: CO-010-178
Area Name: Harmony Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area has within it several easements, oil and gas leases, and grazing allotments. Permanent improvements include spring developments, pipelines, and a telephone line. Presently the land is primarily utilized for grazing, moss rock collection, big game hunting, ORV use and overnight camping. The topography varies from rolling to steep; the dominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Deletions:

A major line of the Denver-Rio Grande Railroad passes through the western boundary of the unit in Section 9, T2S, R83W. This accounts for a 160 acre reduction in the original size of the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: The County Commissioners commented that the units contain mining roads. No specific locations were given.

Naturalness: The County Commissioners commented that there are active and inactive mining claims in the unit. No specific locations were given.

General Comments:

The Grand County Board of Commissioners recommended that the area be allocated to non-wilderness because of potential mineral resources.

One comment identified potential conflicts with mineral resources.

One comment discussed their use of the area including use of motorized vehicles and the desire to continue such use. They also mentioned the importance of close-to-home recreational areas with the cost of gas rising.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is of sufficient size and is generally free of permanent improvements and evidence of man.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

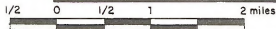
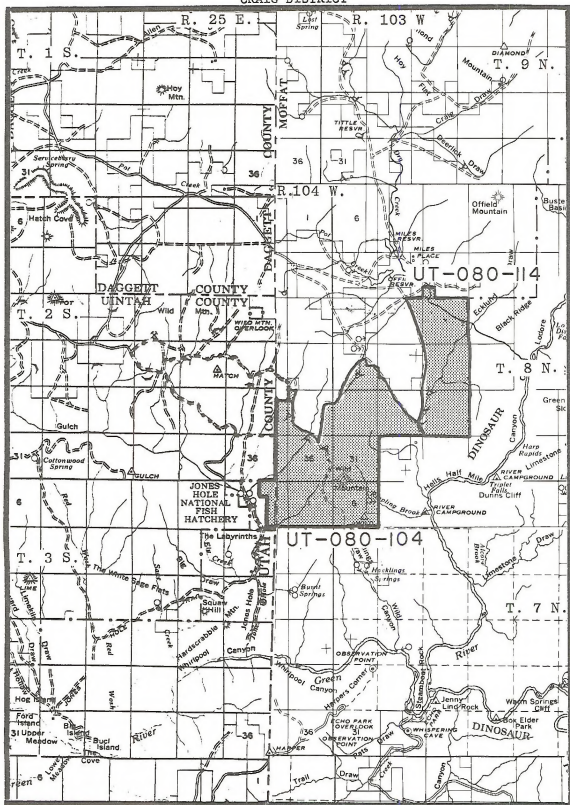
U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0475
0476
0532
0533

Blue Hill
McCoy
Castle Peak
State Bridge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-16

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



102

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location: Adjacent to the western boundary of Dinosaur National Monument - in Colorado but inventoried by Utah BLM under Cooperative Agreement (Moffat County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,560 acres (includes Utah)
District: Vernal/Craig

Inventory #: UT-080-104
Area Name: Wild Mountain
State: Utah/Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The area spans the Colorado-Utah border and is managed by the Utah BLM office. Along the north border lies one 80-acre parcel of private land. Grazing and hunting are the primary uses. The road that forms the southwest corner is an important sightseeing route. Big Sage is the dominant vegetation, and the primary geologic feature is the Wild Mountain landform that extends into Dinosaur National Monument. Dinosaur National Monument lies to the south and southeast, an area which has been proposed to Congress for wilderness designation.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Northwestern arm of the unit has been dropped in Utah. A number of impacts in this area were commented upon. This portion of the unit was acknowledged to be significantly impacted in the initial inventory. Degree of impact is recognized to significantly affect this portion of the unit's naturalness. New boundary extends northward from the northeast corner of Section 36, T2S, R25E, along a fence line to the north boundary road at the east side of Section 25. This adjusted boundary coincides with the Utah-Colorado border. Of the area to be intensively inventoried, a small portion (140 acres) east of Jones Hole Fish Hatchery extends into Utah.

Deletions:

All public land in Sec. 25, 24, 16, 15, and 14, T2S, R25E within Utah has been excluded because of several major imprints of man.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment was made that the area should not be wilderness because it is not 5,000 acres. This unit is recommended because it is adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument which is proposed for wilderness.

Roads: Utah received general comments on roads within this unit, which have been excluded with the boundary adjustment.

Naturalness: Utah received general comments stating that the unit is not natural. No specific information was given.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The Wild Mountain area contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument remains basically in a natural state and may offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive recreation experience.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,071 acres
District: Vernal

Inventory #: UT-080-114
Area Name: Pot Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is in Colorado, though managed by Utah BLM. No easements, mining claims, or leases exist on the unit. Three BLM reservoirs, 2.6 miles of fence along the border, 1.3 miles of fence in the interior, and 5.4 miles of ways are located within the unit. Uses include summer cattle grazing and hunting. Gently rolling hills and big sage vegetation characterize the unit, but the scenic rating is "C," or low quality. Dinosaur National Monument lies to the south and east; private land lies to the north; and BLM and private land lie to the northwest. Adjacent lands in the monument have been recommended by the National Park Service for wilderness.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

No adjustments have been made.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment was received stating that the unit is not 5,000 acres. This unit is recommended for further study because it is adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, which has been proposed for wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit's contiguity with Dinosaur National Monument, as well as its natural characteristics, warrant further study.

REFERENCES:

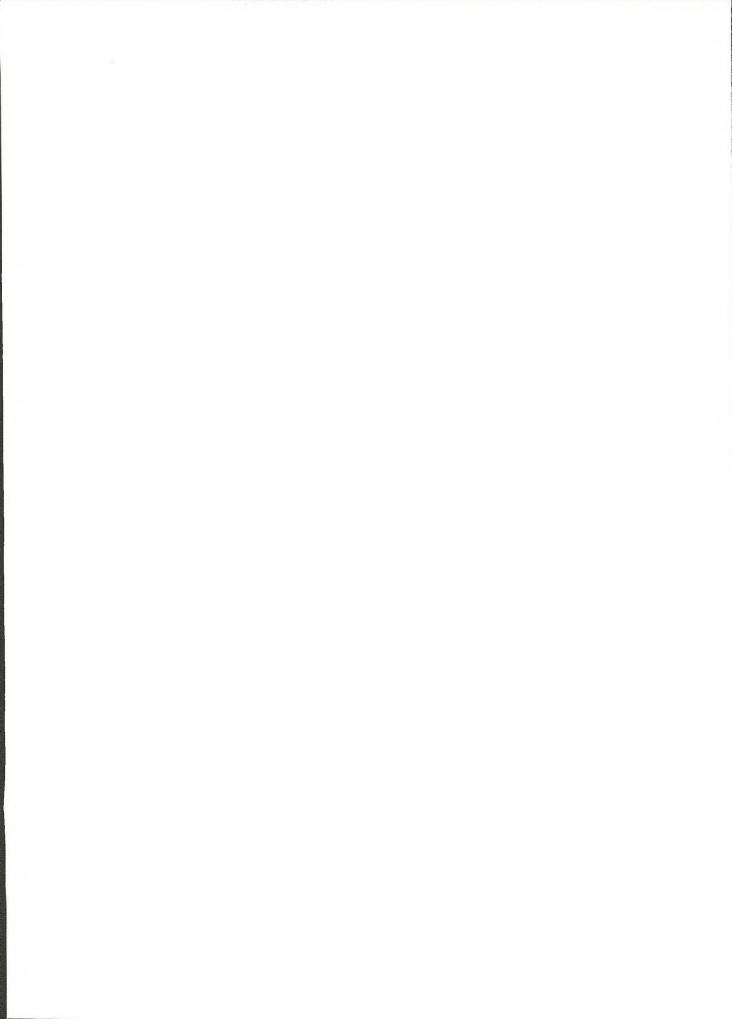
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

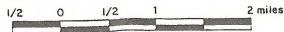
0115
0116
0172
0173

Hoy Mountain
Canyon of Lodere North
Jones Hole
Canyon of Lodere South

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-1, NW-7

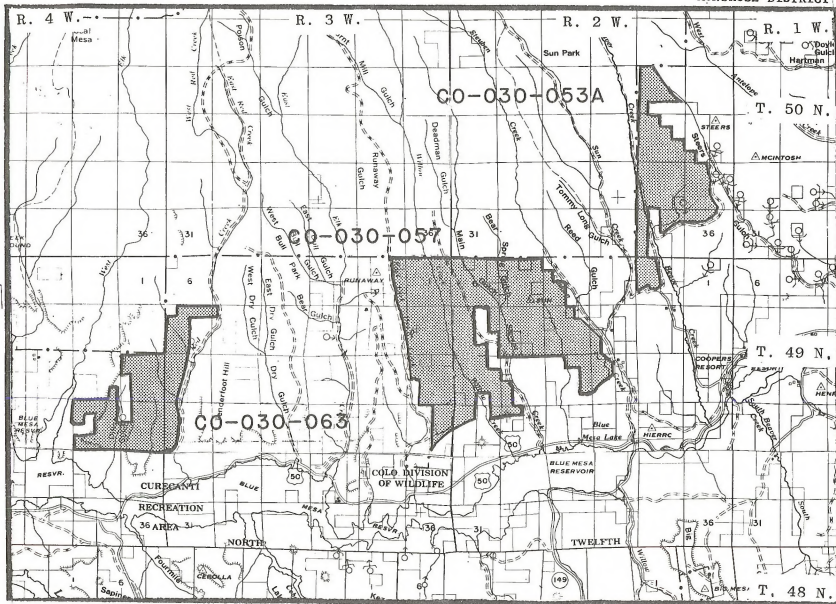


MONTROSE
(030)



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



General Location:

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - Northeast Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison, Colorado (Gunnison County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,440 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-053A
Area Name: Steer's Gulch
State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Portions of the unit are found to be generally unaffected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. In conjunction with an adjacent USFS RARE II area proposed for Wilderness, the unit would provide opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation. While the area contains no supplemental values, no portions of the unit were found to be unnatural.

Contiguous to the north and west is the Gunnison National Forest proposed for Wilderness; mostly public lands lie to the east and south, with some private land interspersed.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Comment one stated the area did not meet the 5,000-acre size requirement. Inventory Unit CO-030-053A is contiguous with the 50,660-acre RARE II Unit 198, and, therefore, does meet the size requirement for a Wilderness Study Area.

Comment two was concerned with the powerline on the southern boundary of the unit and the possible need or existence of access routes. The powerline and its access are outside the unit boundaries.

General Comments:

Comment three was generally opposed to any wilderness designations. Two comments support making this unit wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

An intensive field inventory revealed the area meets all the wilderness requirements and criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The unit is of sufficient size and is predominantly affected by the forces of nature with man's imprints being substantially unnoticeable. The unit also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1099
1100

West Elk Peak S.W.
McIntosh Mountain

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-4

General Location

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - North of Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison, Colorado (Gunnison County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	6,070 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-057
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Willow Creek
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Man's work in the area is limited to six miles of ways and eleven developed springs. These have been determined to have a low-to-moderate impact on the naturalness of the area. The area itself would not provide opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, but in conjunction with the adjoining RARE II Area #198 (which is proposed for Wilderness), outstanding opportunities are provided. While the area contains no supplemental values, no portions of the unit were found to be unnatural.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment stated "there was a county road within the unit". The field check revealed this "road" was, in fact, a "way".

Naturalness: One comment was concerned with the powerline on the southern boundary of the unit and the possible need or existence of access routes. The powerline and its access are outside the unit boundaries.

General Comments:

Three letters were received from people owning lands adjacent to this unit. They strongly oppose any wilderness designation. They state that designating this unit as wilderness would cause them undue hardships in maintaining their irrigation facilities and utilizing grazing leases.

One letter generally opposed any wilderness designation. Two letters strongly support designating this area as wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

An intensive field inventory revealed the area meets all the wilderness requirements and criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The unit is of sufficient size and is predominantly affected by the forces of nature with man's imprints being substantially unnoticeable. The unit also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1099	West Elk Peak S.W.
1156	Carpender Ridge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-3, SW-4

General Location:

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest, North of Blue Mesa Reservoir
(Gunnison County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area
(Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an intensive
Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory
explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory
components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	2,520 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-063
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Dillon Mesa
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Approximately one mile of ways exist within the unit, but the tracks are of a primitive type that have already partially revegetated. Large viewing areas and steep slopes of mostly unusable land do not create an atmosphere for solitude or opportunities for primitive recreation, but in conjunction with an adjoining proposed Wilderness Area of 121,680 acres, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be available (RARE II Area #196). In the southeast corner of the unit stands a highly eroded cliff, which contains scenic geologic forms known as hoodoos; these are fingers of easily eroded material extending into the air, with an erosion-resistant cap on the top. The area has been determined to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Bounding the area on the south is Curecanti National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service. The east boundary is USFS Road #725 and private property. To the north and west is the Gunnison National Forest RARE II area, and the remaining boundaries are mostly private lands.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stating the area did not meet the size requirement was received. The unit does not have 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the 50,660-acre RARE II Unit 198 and, therefore, does meet size requirements.

General Comments:

One comment generally opposing any wilderness designation was received.

Two comments endorse the wilderness proposal for this unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

An intensive field inventory revealed the area meets all the wilderness requirements and criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The unit is of sufficient size and is predominantly affected by the forces of nature with man's imprints being substantially unnoticeable. The unit also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

REFERENCES:

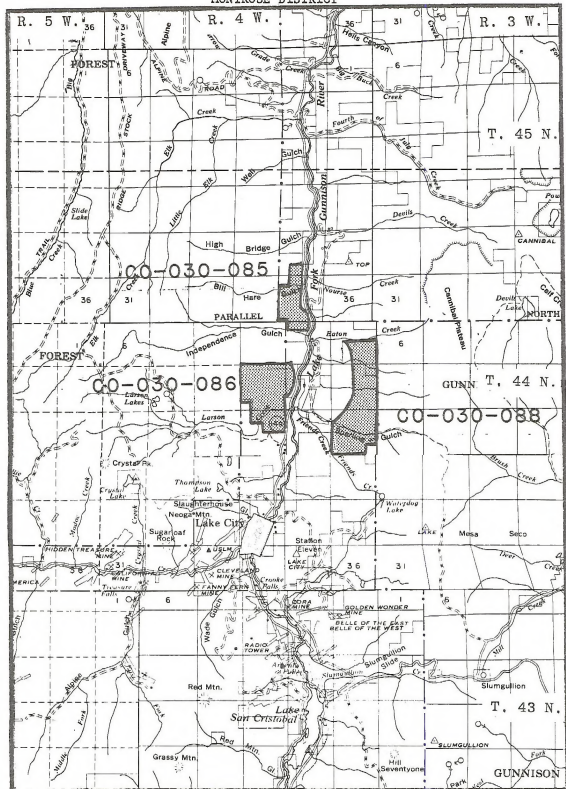
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1098
1155

Little Soap Park
Sapinero

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-3

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



110 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 400 acres	Inventory No.: CO-030-085
District: Montrose	Area Name: Bill Hare Gulch
	State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

The area contains no man-caused impacts and is natural in character. While 400 acres alone is not enough to provide opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, the unit is adjacent to 37,095 acres of the Big Blue proposed wilderness area in the Uncompahgre National Forest. No supplemental values are formed on the unit, but there are features of interest in the Big Blue area contiguous to it.

Private lands lie to the east, USFS land to the west, and a mixture of public and private lands to the north and south.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eight public comments were received concerning Unit 085.

Size: One comment opposed intensive inventory of the unit because it did not meet size requirements. However, size criteria for wilderness inventory can be satisfied if the area is "contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values". Unit 085 is contiguous with the Big Blue proposed wilderness within the Uncompahgre National Forest and, therefore, meets the size requirements.

Naturalness: One comment stated that there were numerous "ways" and mines in the unit. However, field work did not reveal any substantial imprints within the unit.

Roads: A comment was made concerning the use of roads and towns as boundaries. It concluded that such boundaries were not conducive to wilderness and should be altered. A road bounding a unit would be considered outside the unit. At this point of the wilderness study, outside sights and sounds are not considered.

A comment stating the presence of SH 149 within the unit was made. This highway is due east of the unit and completely outside its boundaries.

General Comments:

A comment supporting further wilderness study of the unit mentions various imprints of man (abandoned cabins and mines and the Durango Railroad) as containing historic significance and should be considered as supplemental values in the unit. In addition to the previous comment supporting the unit's wilderness classification, two other general comments were received in favor of further wilderness study of the unit.

Two comments were received opposing further study in the area due to the land's mineral potential. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the Intensive Inventory process.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

An intensive inventory revealed the area meets all of the wilderness requirements and criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Though the unit's size is less than 5,000 acres, it is contiguous with the Big Blue proposed wilderness within the Uncompahgre National Forest, thus meeting size requirements. The area is substantially free of man's imprints and is primarily affected by the forces of nature. When considered with contiguous Forest Service land, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1325	Uncompahgre Peak
1326	Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-15

General Location:

Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - North of Lake City
(Hinsdale County).

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	880 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-086
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Jarsen Creek
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS CONCLUSIONS:

The area contains no man-caused impacts and is natural in character. Big Blue proposed wilderness is contiguous to the west, enlarging the potential wilderness by 37,095 acres. These areas in combination would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. No supplemental values have been formed on the unit alone.

Aside from the western USFS boundary, most of the remaining contiguous lands are private.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eleven public comments were received concerning Unit 086.

Size: Two comments addressed the size of the unit. One comment considered the unit as a logical continuation of the Weminuche Wilderness and supported further study of the area.

The other comment opposed intensive inventory due to the unit's failure to meet size requirements. However, the Wilderness Inventory states that size criteria for wilderness can be satisfied if the area is "contiguous with lands managed by another agency which has been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values". Unit CO-030-086 is contiguous with the Big Blue proposed wilderness within the Uncompahgre National Forest and, therefore, meets size requirements.

Roads: Two comments were made referring to roads. One comment mentioned the presence of State Highway 149 within the unit. The highway is clearly outside the unit and does not affect intensive inventory. Another comment addressed the use of roads and towns as boundaries. It considered such boundaries not conducive for wilderness and should be altered. A road bounding a unit is considered outside the area and does not affect intensive inventory.

Naturalness: One comment addressing naturalness stated that the area contained numerous imprints in the form of ways and mining activity. It opposed further wilderness study. Field work, however, did not find any noticeable imprint of man within the unit.

A general comment concerning naturalness was received stating that the unit was natural in character and offered outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The comment supported further study of the unit.

General Comments:

One comment supporting further wilderness study of the area recommends the consideration of old cabins, abandoned mines and the Durango Railroad as supplemental values to the unit.

Two comments were opposed to further wilderness study due to the unit's mineral potential. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the intensive inventory process.

A general comment supporting further study stated that the unit met the criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Intensive field inventory revealed that the unit meets all of the wilderness requirements and criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Though the unit's size is less than 5,000 acres, it is contiguous with proposed wilderness within the Uncompahgre National Forest, thus meeting size requirements. The unit is predominantly natural in character with man's works substantially unnoticeable. When considered with contiguous Forest Service lands, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-086 Continued

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1325

Uncompahgre Peak

1326

Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-15

General Location:

Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - North of Lake City (Hinsdale County).

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	1,120 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-088
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Sparling Gulch
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

The area is determined to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. While 1,120 acres alone would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, the unit's contiguity with a RARE II area proposed for wilderness (#218; 31,990 acres) and the RARE II area's contiguity with Powderhorn Instant Study Area (CO-030-089; 45,000 acres), would add substantial acreage of forested drainages and alpine tundra plateaus. This would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

No supplemental values exist within the unit itself. Bounding the unit to the east is USFS land, to the north and east is private land, and to the south is a mixture of private and BLM lands, including a proposed Wilderness Study Unit CO-030-213.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ten public comments were received concerning Unit 088.

Size: Two comments addressed the size of the unit. One comment considered the unit as a logical continuation of the Weminuche Wilderness and supported further study of the area.

The other comment opposed intensive inventory due to the unit's failure to meet size requirements. However, Unit 088 is contiguous with Gunnison National Forest RARE II Area No. 218 and, therefore, meets size requirements.

Naturalness: Three comments were received concerning naturalness. One comment addressed the use of roads and towns as boundaries. Such boundaries were not considered conducive to wilderness and should be altered. A road bounding an area is outside the unit and is not considered in the intensive inventory.

Another comment mentioned that numerous imprints in the form of jeep trails and mining activity were within the unit. Field work, however, did not reveal any substantial imprints of man.

A general comment concerning naturalness supported intensive inventory and considered the unit natural in character with outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

General Comments:

One comment supporting further wilderness study suggested the consideration of old cabins, mines and the Durango Railroad as supplemental historical value to the unit.

Two comments opposed further wilderness study due to the unit's mineral potential. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the intensive inventory process.

A general comment stated that the area met criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and deserves further study.

Another comment requesting timber resource information was received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area meets all the requirements specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Though it does not contain 5,000 acres, the unit is contiguous with RARE II National Forest lands, thus meeting size criteria. It is free of the imprints of man and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. When considered with contiguous Forest Service lands, it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-088 Continued

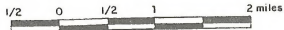
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1325
1326

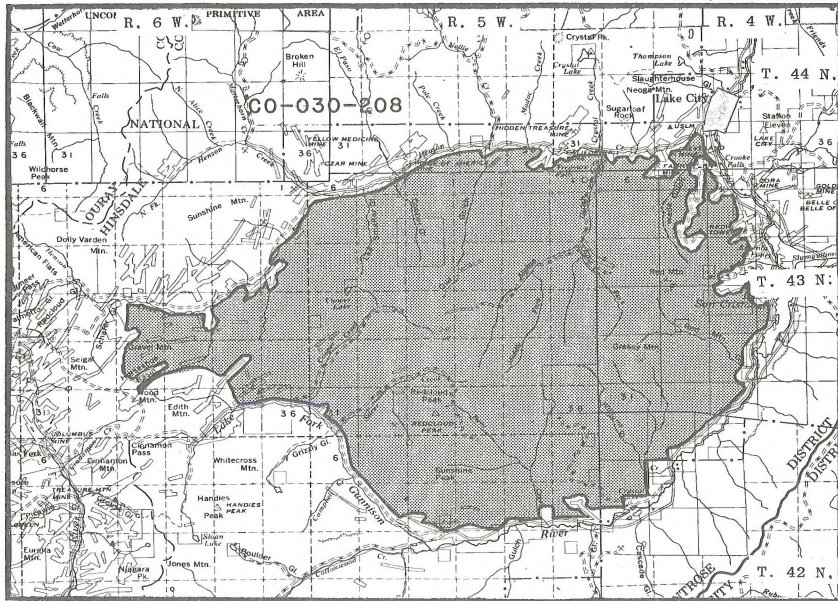
Uncompahgre Peak
Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-15



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



General Location:

Southeast of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	38,100 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-208
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Redcloud Peak
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Several miles of ways exist in the unit, but these are mostly concealed by trees, mitigating their visual impact. Due to the forested nature of the area, the impact on the area's naturalness is moderate. A 3-4" pipeline runs on the surface from Wade Gulch to the top of Red Mountain where a storage tank and a 10' x 12' metal shed are located. These structures were designed to be temporary in nature, and removal would leave a very limited impact. At several points along the boundary, access to patented mining claims (on private lands) form fingers which extend into the area, but this impact is offset by the mines' historical significance. Sheep graze the unit in the summer, trampling vegetation and terracing the hillside, but this would have a low impact on the naturalness of the area. Generally, the area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are enhanced by the rugged, mountainous topography and rich spruce-fir vegetation. Numerous supplemental values are present, including steep mountain peaks, waterfalls, beaver ponds, and evidence of historical mining activities.

The unit is surrounded by BLM lands recommended for intensive inventory: CO-030-421, CO-030-217, CO-030-213, CO-030-214, and CO-030-210.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Two comments stated that the unit contained roads. The field check revealed that there were ways but no roads within the unit boundaries.

Naturalness: Two comments addressing naturalness were received. Both were concerned with the considerable past mining activity within the unit and the cumulative affect of man's works. No locations were given and a field check revealed that these imprints of man were not significant in the context of the unit as a whole.

One comment was concerned with the lack of solitude due to motorized boats on Lake San Cristobal. The lake is not within the unit boundaries.

One comment mentioned the 3 - 4" pipeline on the surface from Wade Gulch to the top of Red Mountain where a storage tank and metal shed are located. This imprint has been noted and documented in the intensive inventory. Manual rehabilitation would be necessary to return this site to a natural condition.

One comment was received supporting wilderness study of this unit due to the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

One inventory worksheet was submitted, which included a detailed description of the unit. The comment stressed the natural character of the unit and the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and supports a wilderness designation for the unit.

General Comments:

Four letters support designating this area as wilderness.

One letter of inquiry as to the feasibility of timber production within the unit was received.

One letter stated the collective impact of the imprints of man's works was substantially enough to exclude this unit from further study.

Seven letters were received which object to wilderness study for Unit 208. These comments refer to substantial mining activities that have taken place throughout the unit, and to the potential mineral development yet possible.

Conflicting resource values are not considered in the Intensive Inventory Phase, but will be evaluated in the Wilderness Study Phase.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-208 Continued

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Inventory Unit CO-030-208 meets all requirements specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. This area is affected primarily by the forces of nature, is of sufficient size and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

REFERENCES:

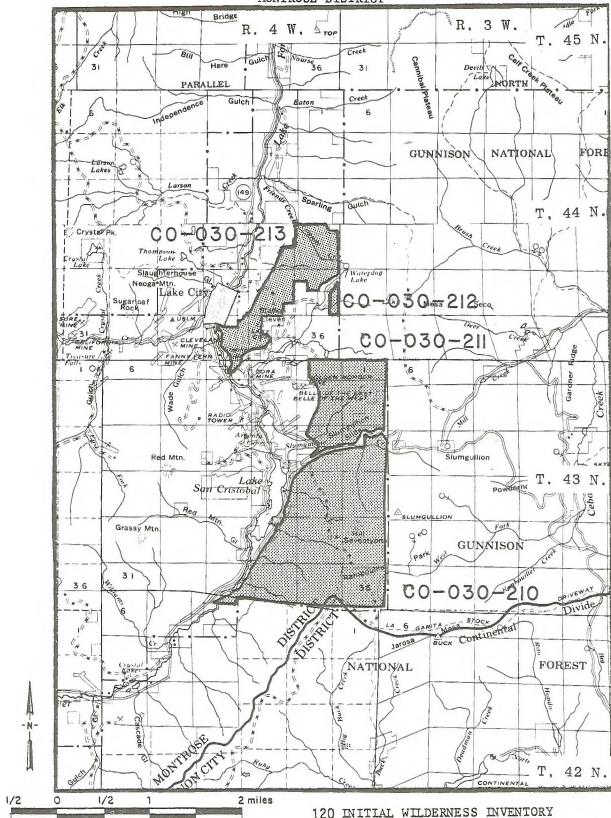
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1324, 1325
1380, 1381
1382
1383

Wetter Horn Peak, Uncompahgre Peak
Ironton, Handies Peak
Redcloud Peak
Lake San Cristobal

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



120 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

Adjacent to Gunnison national Forest Southeast of Lake City
(Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,980 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-210
Area Name: Rambouillet Park
State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Man's impacts in the area consist of five miles of ways, all of which have a low impact on the area's naturalness due to their small and inconspicuous nature. The area is determined to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Approximately 40 open areas are interspersed with forested lands, many of which are accessible only by cross-country skiing or hiking; opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are great. The unit does not contain any supplemental values.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roads: Two comments were concerned about the county roads within the unit. A field check revealed no roads within the unit.

Naturalness: One letter stated man's imprints were very noticeable within the unit. Example imprints included old roads, old mines or proposed sites and small homesteads. A field check revealed five miles of unmaintained way exists. No locations were given regarding any homesteads and none were found.

General Comments:

One comment stated "because of the motorized boat use" opportunities for solitude are inhibited. Motorized boat use does not occur within the unit boundaries.

One letter of inquiry as to the feasibility of timber production was received.

One comment is concerned with the lack of solitude due to the traffic on the boundary roads.

Three comments regarding the potential mineral development within the area were received. All of these opposed reclassifying the area as wilderness. One comment generally opposed wilderness in this unit.

Three comments were received supporting wilderness study due to the natural character of the unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Unit No. CO-030-210 meets the wilderness criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The area is of sufficient size and is primarily affected by the forces of nature. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1382
1383
1326

Red Cloud Peak
Lake San Cristobal
Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-15

General Location:

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest Southeast of Lake City
(Hinsdale County).

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	1,960 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-211
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Slumgullion Slide
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

The unit is generally affected primarily by the works of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. A USFS RARE II proposed wilderness area is adjacent to the unit (#218; 31,990 acres), enhancing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The large combined acreage consists of interspersed forest and open areas, as well as alpine tundra. Originating on the western edge of the Cannibal Plateau, the Slumgullion slide flows 4 1/2 miles into the valley, blocking the Gunnison River and creating Lake San Cristobal. As an active earthflow, moving .48 inches per day, the slide provides an excellent supplemental value for geologic and scenic interests.

To the east and north lie USFS RARE II lands, with the remainder of contiguous lands a mixture of public and private. The unit contains 720 acres of Natural History Landmark withdrawal covering Slumgullion Earthflow.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roads: One comment stated State Highway 149 was within the unit.

One comment states that several roads in the area are subjected to heavy traffic. Field work revealed two miles of ways originally built in conjunction with prospecting activities. These ways do not constitute a major impairment on the naturalness of the unit. There are no roads or highways within the unit.

Size: One comment stated the area did not meet the 5,000-acre size requirements. The unit is of sufficient size when considered in conjunction with contiguous USFS RARE II Unit 218.

Naturalness: Three letters state this area is natural in character and support wilderness study and designation.

General Comments:

One letter of inquiry concerning the timber-producing potential of the unit was received.

Three comments generally opposed wilderness designation in this area due to the mineral resource potential. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the inventory phase.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

After an intensive field inventory, the unit was found to meet the wilderness criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Being of sufficient size, and primarily affected by the forces of nature, this unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1382	Red Cloud Peak
1383	Lake San Cristobal
1326	Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9, SW-15

General Location

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest East of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 80 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-212
Area Name: Waterdog Lake
State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

The area is natural in character with no human activity present, other than the road which forms the north boundary. By itself, the area does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, but in conjunction with an adjoining proposed wilderness area (RARE II Area #218; 31,900 acres), the large acreage, which is about one-half forested, would provide these opportunities. No supplemental values have been identified.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment stated there were roads within the unit. A field check found no roads in the area.

Size: One comment stated the area did not meet the 5,000-acre size requirement and should be dropped from further study. This unit is contiguous with the 31,900-acre USFS RARE II Area No. 218 and, therefore, is of sufficient size.

General Comments:

One letter of inquiry, concerning the potential timber production within the unit, was received.

Two comments support designating this area as wilderness.

Four letters opposing reclassification were received. All referred to the mineral resource potential. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the Inventory Phase.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit is contiguous with the USFS 31,900-acre RARE II Area No. 218 and, therefore, meets size requirements specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The area is primarily natural in character and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

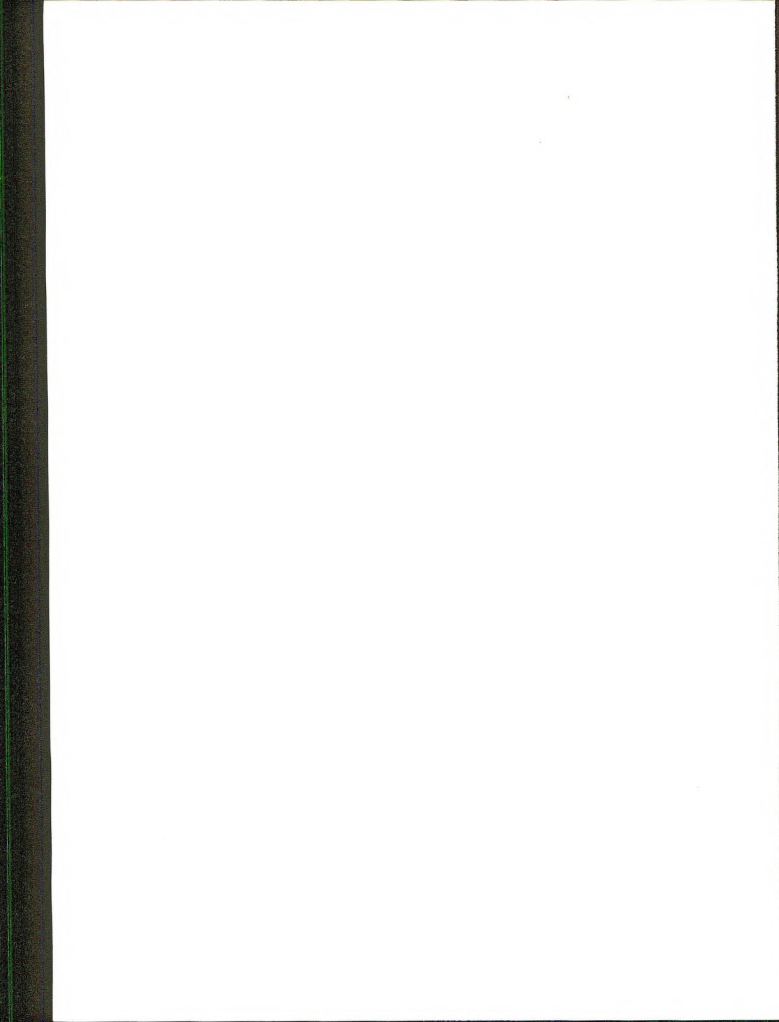
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1325
1326

Uncompahgre Peak
Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15



General Location:

Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest East of Lake City (Hinsdale County).

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2040 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-213
Area Name: Friends Creek
State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

A well-disguised way runs through the unit with minimal impacts, as well as a transmission line, which is apparent from outside the unit, but is relatively unnoticeable from within. Along the western edge outside the unit are some houses and a substation, giving the downslope facing Lake City an unnatural character. Considering only man's impact within the area, the unit appears to be primarily affected by the works of nature. In combination with an adjoining USFS proposed wilderness area (RARE II #218; 31,900 acres), the unit is of sufficient size to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. No supplemental values have been identified.

To the east lies RARE II Area #218; to the south, BLM inventory units CO-030-208 and CO-030-212; and the remaining borders adjoin mostly private lands.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Two comments state there are roads within this unit. Field work revealed no roads.

Size: One comment stated this unit was too small to qualify as a wilderness area. The unit is contiguous with the USFS RARE II Area No. 218 which includes 31,990 acres of land.

Naturalness: One comment suggests this area is unnatural and should be dropped from further study. Field check revealed this area was primarily natural in character.

Three letters stated that the area was primarily natural in character and should be recommended for wilderness study.

General Comments:

Three letters concerned with the mineral resources within the unit expressed their opposition to a wilderness designation.

Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the Inventory Phase.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit is primarily affected by the forces of nature. It is contiguous with the USFS RARE II Area No. 218 and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

REFERENCES:

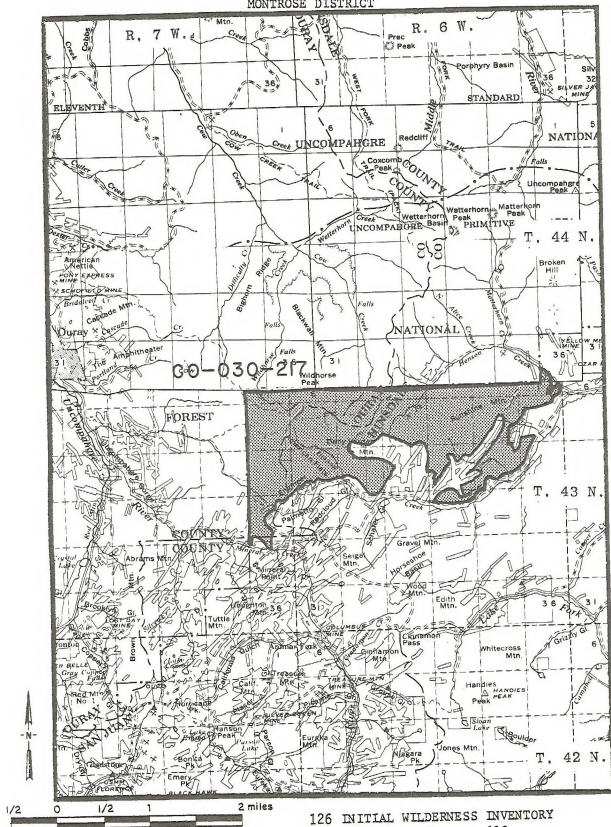
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad;

1325
1326

Uncompahgre Peak
Lake City

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



126 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

East of Ouray (Ouray County - San Juan County - Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	7,900 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-217
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	American Flats
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Approximately four miles of ways are formed in the unit, but consist mainly of two-track jeep trails having a low impact on the naturalness of the area. Sheep graze most of summer, leaving close-cropped vegetation and sheep droppings; where they have concentrated for a period of time, a moderate impact on the area's naturalness is observed. Generally, however, the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature. Solitude is provided by the drainages descending from Dolly Varden and Sunshine Mountains, in combination with the vastness of the alpine tundra terrain. Primitive recreation is enhanced by the unconfined movement possibilities for hikers and the high scenic quality of the area. "Ecologically unique" plant species listed on the Federal Register of Endangered and Threatened Plants are located within the unit: Altia starwort (*Stellaria irrigua*) and Porter's groundsel (*Senecio porteri*).

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: No comments regarding roads were received.

Size: No comments regarding size were received.

Naturalness: One comment was concerned with the lack of solitude due to the traffic on the boundary roads. Outside sights and sounds are not considered in the inventory phase.

General Comments:

Three comments support studying this area for possible wilderness designation.

Three comments oppose reclassification of this unit due to the "substantial mineral resource potential within the area". Conflicting resource values will be considered during the Study Phase and do not affect the Intensive Inventory process.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit is of sufficient size, is affected primarily by the forces of nature, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

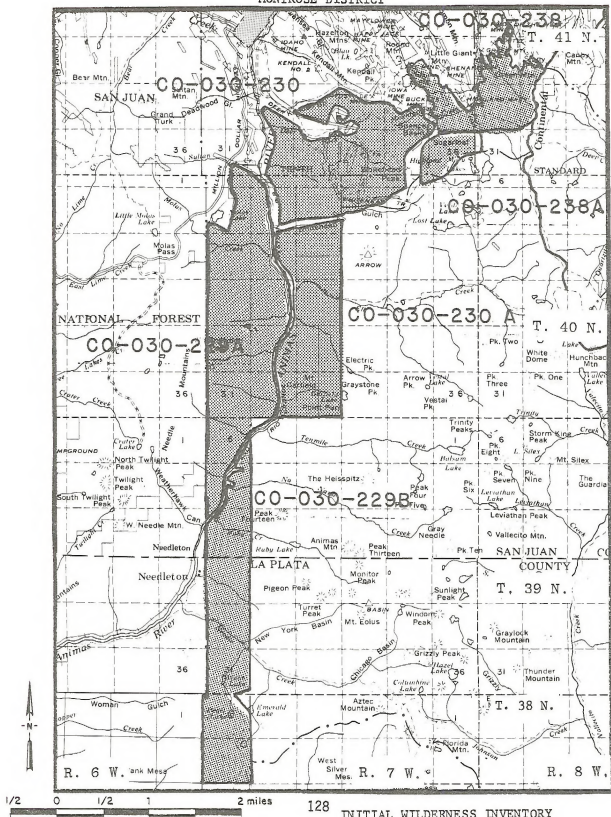
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1323	Ouray
1324	Wetter Horn Peak
1380	Ironton
1381	Hindes Peak

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



General Location:

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest - South of Silverton (San Juan County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	5,920 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-229A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	West Needles Contiguous
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is located in an area that is considered to have mineral potential. There are mining claims in the vicinity of Elk Park. Topography is steep with elevations ranging from 8,400 feet at the Animas River to 13,077 feet at Snowdon Peak. Vegetation is primarily characteristic of the subalpine life zone (i.e., Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen and assorted high-elevation wildflowers). The unit is generally free of man's imprints. All lands within the unit are public lands. Land ownership adjacent to the unit is a mixture of public and State lands.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Of the eleven public comments received for this unit, five supported further study of the unit for possible wilderness classification, three recommended the unit be deleted from further study, and three others provided information without recommending direction.

Size: There were no comments addressing the size of the unit.

Roads: One comment noted the presence of a bulldozed unimproved access route to an active mining prospect south of Elk Park. This site will be field inventoried during the intensive inventory phase.

Naturalness: Several comments noted that because of the presence of ways, mining imprints, or the railroad in the area, the unit did not meet the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The railroad is not within the unit and, therefore, not evaluated when assessing naturalness. An initial BLM field study indicated the other imprints were not substantially noticeable.

General Comments:

Five comments generally noted the unit met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964 for wilderness classification.

Three comments expressed concern for the possible mineral potential within the unit. If the unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area, the mineral resource (along with all other resources), would be evaluated in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review process.

A comment noted the Highway 550 is near the northwest boundary and requested a reasonable buffer zone to permit road maintenance. The boundary is the powerline or private property, either of which is 500 feet to 1,000 feet from Highway 550.

Another comment suggested the railroad, scattered cabins, and abandoned mines be considered historic supplemental values. The railroad and cabins are not within the unit. Mines will be assessed individually for their impact on naturalness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is adjacent to a USFS RARE II area which has been recommended for wilderness designation. While bordering a Special Study Area, no intensive inventory has been conducted pending a land exchange with the Forest Service.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1550	Electra Lake
1493	Engineer Mountain
1494	Snowdon Peak
1436	Ophir

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15, SW-21

GENERAL LOCATION:

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest (San Juan and La Plata Counties).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,200 acres	Inventory No.: CO-030-2295
District: Montrose	Area Name: Needle Creek
	State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is located in an area that is considered to have mineral potential. Topography is steep with elevations ranging from 8,200 feet at the Animas River to 12,998 feet at Overlook Point. Vegetation is primarily characteristic of the subalpine life zone (i.e., Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen, and assorted high-elevation wildflowers). The unit is virtually free of man's imprints. All lands within the unit are public lands. Land ownership adjacent to the unit is a mixture of public and State lands.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Of the nine public comments, four supported further study of the unit for possible wilderness classification, four recommended the unit be deleted from further study, and one provided information without recommending direction.

Size: One comment stated the area is less than 5,000 acres of public land administered by the BLM and that the unit should not be considered for wilderness inventory even though it is contiguous to proposed or designated wilderness lands administered by another Federal agency. FLEMA section 603(a) designates the BLM to inventory their lands according to "wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act..." The 1964 Wilderness Act specifically states "at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation..." The land contiguous to USFS wilderness land is of sufficient size, when combined with the USFS land, for practical preservation.

Naturalness: Several comments noted that because of the presence of ways, mining activity or the railroad in the area, the unit did not meet the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The railroad is not within the unit and, therefore, not evaluated when assessing naturalness. An initial BLM field study indicated the other imprints were not substantially noticeable.

General Comments:

Four comments generally noted the unit met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964 for wilderness classification.

One comment expressed concern for the possible mineral potential within the unit. If the unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area, the mineral resource (along with all other resources) would be evaluated in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review process.

One comment was concerned that access to inholdings would be denied should the unit be designated as wilderness. Access to inholdings cannot be denied because of wilderness classification.

Another comment suggested the railroad, scattered cabins and abandoned mines be considered historic supplemental values. The railroad and cabins are not within the unit. Mines will be assessed individually for their impact on naturalness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is adjacent to Weminuche Wilderness, managed by the USFS. While bordering a Special Study Area (White River Range Environmental Statement), no intensive inventory has been conducted pending a land exchange with the Forest Service.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1550	Electra Lake
1493	Engineer Mountain
1494	Snowdon Peak
1436	Ophir

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quads: SW-15, SW-21

General Location

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest - Southeast of Silverton
(San Juan County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,560 acres	Inventory No.: CO-030-230
District: Montrose	Area Name: Deer Park
	State: Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Man's impacts in this area involve ways which date back to past mining activities, but these have a low effect on the area's naturalness. The mines themselves, located on patented mining claims, house the evidence of these activities: wooden shafts, small buildings, an old bus, and associated mining litter. All but the bus and litter have little impact on naturalness. Other ways and buildings off the area impact the naturalness little to moderately. Numerous mining exploration pits are interspersed throughout the area, leaving piles of a different colored material on the surface. It is felt that the overall impact of man's work inside the area has a low effect on the naturalness and is substantially unnoticed. The unit is adjacent to 405,000 acres of the Weminuche Wilderness Area, greatly enhancing the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation; the spruce-fir vegetation of Deer Park also adds to these opportunities. The scenic splendor of the area is outstanding, with alpine basins and several 13,000-foot mountain peaks characterizing the terrain. An endangered plant, Altia starwort (*Stellaria irrigua*) is present in the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment concerning size was received. It stated that because the area was not 5,000 acres in size, it did not meet the size requirements.

This area is contiguous with the USFS 405,000-acre Weminuche Wilderness area and, therefore, meets the size requirements.

Roads: Two comments addressed "the numerous roads" within the unit. An intensive field check revealed no roads within the unit, and the imprints of man's works were not found to significantly impair the naturalness of the area.

Naturalness: Two comments addressed the imprints or remains of past mining activities in the form of adits, shafts, ways and tailing sites. No locations were discussed.

General Comments:

Five comments expressed concern about the mineral potential within the area. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the Inventory Phase.

Four comments support designating wilderness study for this area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit meets all the wilderness criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Sufficient size, natural character and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are evident in the unit.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1437
1436

Silverton
Ophir

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

GENERAL LOCATION:

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest (San Juan County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	3,400 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-230A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Mt. Garfield
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is located in an area that is considered to have mineral potential. There are no known mining claims within the unit. Topography is steep with elevations ranging from 13,074 feet on Mount Garfield to 8,700 feet at the Animas River. Vegetation is primarily characteristic of the subalpine life zone and riparian along the Animas River and tributary creeks. The unit is natural with the imprint of man unnoticeable except in the immediate area of the Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad. This unit is adjacent to existing U.S. Forest Service Weminuche Wilderness.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Of the eleven public comments, five supported further study of the unit for wilderness classification, five recommended the unit be deleted from further study, and one provided information without recommending direction.

Size: One comment stated the area is less than 5,000 acres of public land administered by the BLM and that the unit should not be considered for wilderness inventory even though it is contiguous to proposed or designated wilderness lands administered by another Federal agency. FLEMA section 603(a) designates the BLM to inventory their lands according to "wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act..." The 1964 Wilderness Act specifically states "at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation..." The land contiguous to USFS wilderness land is of sufficient size, when combined with the USFS land, for practical preservation.

Roads: No comments addressed roads within the unit.

Naturalness: Several comments noted that because of the presence of ways, mining activity or the railroad in the area, the unit did not meet the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The railroad is not within the unit and, therefore, not evaluated when assessing naturalness. An initial BLM field study indicated the other imprints were not substantially noticeable.

General Comments:

Five comments generally noted the unit met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964 for wilderness classification.

Two comments expressed concern for the possible mineral potential within the unit. If the unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area, the mineral resource (along with all other resources) would be evaluated in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review process.

One comment was concerned that access to inholdings would be denied should the unit be designated as wilderness. Access to inholdings cannot be denied because of wilderness classification.

Another comment suggested the railroad, scattered cabins and abandoned miner be considered historic supplemental values. The railroad and cabins are not within the unit. Mines will be assessed individually for their impact on naturalness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is adjacent to Weminuche Wilderness, managed by the USFS. While bordering a Special Study Area (White River Range Environmental Statement), no intensive inventory has been conducted pending a land exchange with the Forest Service.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1550	Electra Lake
1493	Engineer Mountain
1494	Snowdon Peak
1436	Ophir
	Silverton

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quads: SW-15, SW-21

General Location:

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest - Southeast of Silverton
(San Juan County).

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area
(Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an intensive
Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory
explanation of Special Project Areas and intensive inventory
components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	1,420 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-238
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Green Mountain
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

Within the area, inactive mining activity and exploration work
has occurred; the yellow color of the materials removed from both pits
and adits stand in contrast with the adjacent ground and creates a
moderate impact on the naturalness. One way which runs partially
through the unit has a moderate impact on naturalness, primarily due
to vegetation removal. The area's overall impact is minimal. USFS
wilderness is adjacent to the east and increases the potential wil-
derness by 405,000 acres. This combination of areas with numerous
mountain basins and peaks over such a large area affords outstanding
opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Supplemental
values include outstanding scenic qualities and historical mining
activity.

Within the unit lie 80 acres of private lands which are patented
mining claims. Public and private lands lie to the north and west;
BLM proposed wilderness inventory unit CO-030-238A is contiguous to
the south.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Fourteen comments have been submitted concerning the Green Moun-
tain Unit.

Size: A comment was received concerning interpretation of FLPMA,
i.e., whether units less than 5,000 acres could be assessed. FLPMA
Section 603(a) designates the BLM to inventory their lands according
to "wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act..."
The 1964 Wilderness Act specifically states an area must be at least
5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practical its
preservation. The land contiguous to USFS wilderness land is of
sufficient size when combined with the USFS land for practical pre-
servation.

Roads and Naturalness: Four comments were submitted concerning
the naturalness of the area. Areas specifically mentioned include:
(1) a recent adit opened in the Fall of 1978, and (2) active mining at
the Pride of the West and Osceola mines. In addition, the comments
generally state the roads and ways leading to past mining activity and
the activity itself are noticeable imprints of man that detract from
the naturalness of the area. Intensive field study of the area con-
cluded that although the above-mentioned impacts exist, they do not
affect the overall naturalness of the area.

General Comments:

Four general comments were submitted concerning mineral resources
in the area. The inventory phase of the review is concerned solely
with established Wilderness Act characteristics. Conflicting resource
values are considered in the Wilderness Study Phase.

Five comments were received in favor of further wilderness review
for this area. The comments stated the area met wilderness criteria
and contained high scenic quality.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

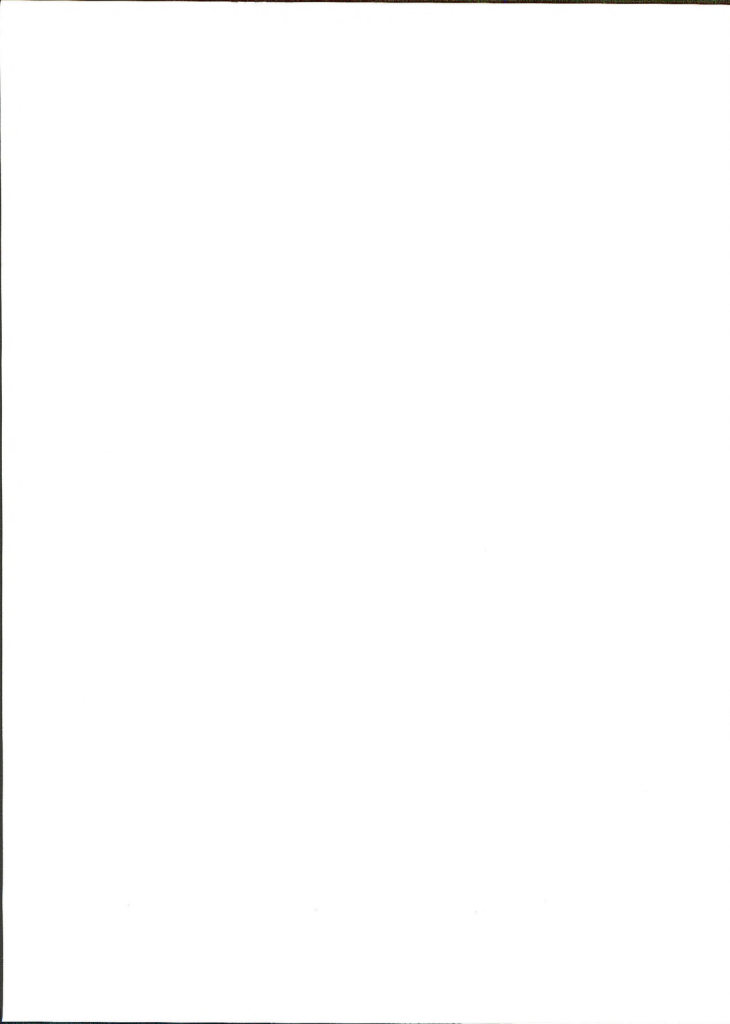
Based upon the intensive inventory, the unit was found to be
primarily natural and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude
and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is manageable for
wilderness preservation since it is contiguous to the Weminuche Wil-
derness area.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1437	Silverton
1436	Ophir

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15



GENERAL LOCATION:

Adjacent to San Juan National Forest (San Juan County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	600 acres	Inventory No.:	00-030-238A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Weminuche Contiguous
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is located in an area that is considered to have mineral potential. Topography is steep with elevations ranging from 11,400 feet to 12,724 feet at Sugarloaf Mountain. Vegetation is primarily characteristic of the subalpine life zone (i.e., Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen and assorted high-elevation wildflowers). The unit is virtually free of man's imprints. There are 10 acres of non-public land inholdings within the unit. The unit is adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service Weminuche Wilderness.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Of the thirteen comments received for this unit, five supported further study of the unit for possible wilderness classification, seven recommended the unit be deleted from further study, and one provided information without recommending direction.

Size: One comment stated the area is less than 5,000 acres of public land administered by the BLM and that the unit should not be considered for wilderness inventory even though it is contiguous to proposed or designated wilderness lands administered by another Federal agency. FLPMA section 603(a) designates the BLM to inventory their lands according to "wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act..." The 1964 Wilderness Act specifically states "at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation..." The land contiguous to USFS wilderness land is of sufficient size, when combined with the USFS land, for practical preservation.

Roads: No comments addressed this issue.

Naturalness: Three comments noted that because of the presence of ways or mining imprints in the area, the unit did not meet the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. An initial BLM field study indicated these imprints were not substantially noticeable.

General Comments:

Five comments generally noted the unit met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act of 1964 for wilderness classification.

Four comments expressed concern for the possible mineral potential within the unit. If the unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area, the mineral resource (along with all other resources) would be evaluated in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review process.

One comment was concerned that access to inholdings would be denied should the unit be designated as wilderness. Access to inholdings cannot be denied because of wilderness classification.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Within the unit lie 10 acres of private land inholdings appearing to be a patented mining claim and mining is the area's only apparent use. The unit is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness managed by the USFS. While within a Special Study Area, no intensive inventory has been conducted pending a land exchange with the Forest Service.

REFERENCES:

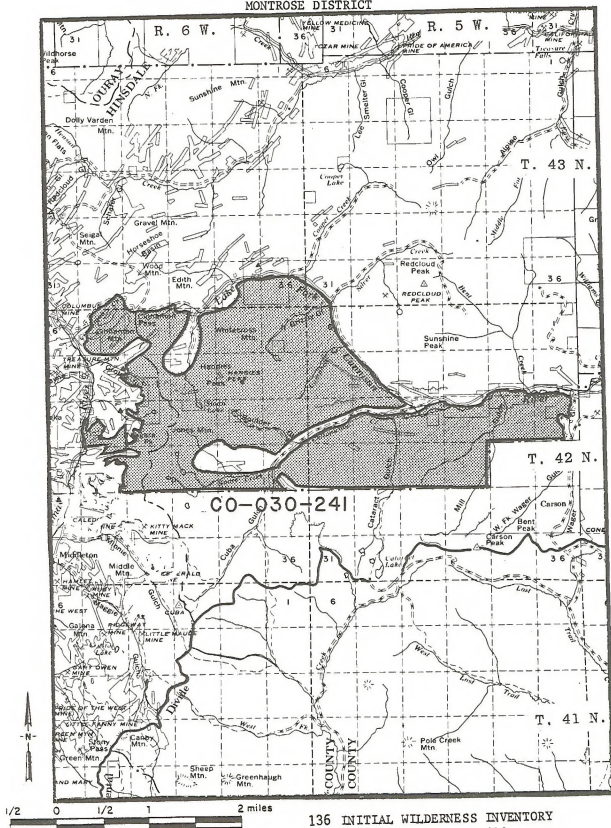
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1437
1436

Silverton
Ophir

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



136 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location

Northeast of Silverton (San Juan County - Hinsdale County)

NOTE: Because this unit is contained within a Special Project Area (Gunnison Basin Range Environmental Statement), an Intensive Wilderness Inventory has been conducted. See introductory explanation of Special Project Areas and Intensive Inventory components.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	19,560 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-241
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Handies Peak
		State:	Colorado

INTENSIVE INVENTORY CONCLUSIONS:

The unit is substantially free of man's imprints and generally appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. Its large size with its numerous remote drainages descending from 13,000' peaks, and the feeling of vastness created by the surrounding mountainous terrain, do provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The scenic quality of the area is outstanding due to the mountain landscape. The limited revegetation potential of alpine tundra (where the impacts are located) suggest that the portions determined unnatural would not return to a natural condition by passive means.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: Three comments concerning roads in the unit were received, but no locations were given. A field check revealed there were no roads within the unit boundaries. One comment states the old ways should not be considered a significant impairment.

Size: One comment stated the large size of the unit provides opportunities for solitude.

Naturalness: Three comments concerned with the cumulative affect of man's works within the unit were received. Evidence of past mining activities resulted in a 1,160-acre deletion. The remainder of the unit was determined to be natural in character.

One letter expressed concern about the lack of solitude due to the traffic on the boundary road to the north. Outside sights and sounds are not considered in the inventory phase but will be evaluated in the Wilderness Study Phase.

One letter claimed existing and possible mining activities would result in a lack of solitude. One letter states opportunities for solitude are outstanding.

General Comments:

Four comments expressed their support in studying this unit for wilderness.

There are seven letters concerning the mineral resource potential of the area. Conflicting mineral resources will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the Intensive Inventory.

One indepth wilderness worksheet was submitted describing the unit in detail and proposing wilderness designation for a variety of reasons including the pristine character of the area, the scenic values, and historical features.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit is of sufficient size, is affected primarily by the forces of nature and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined types of recreation. The unit meets all the requirements specified in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

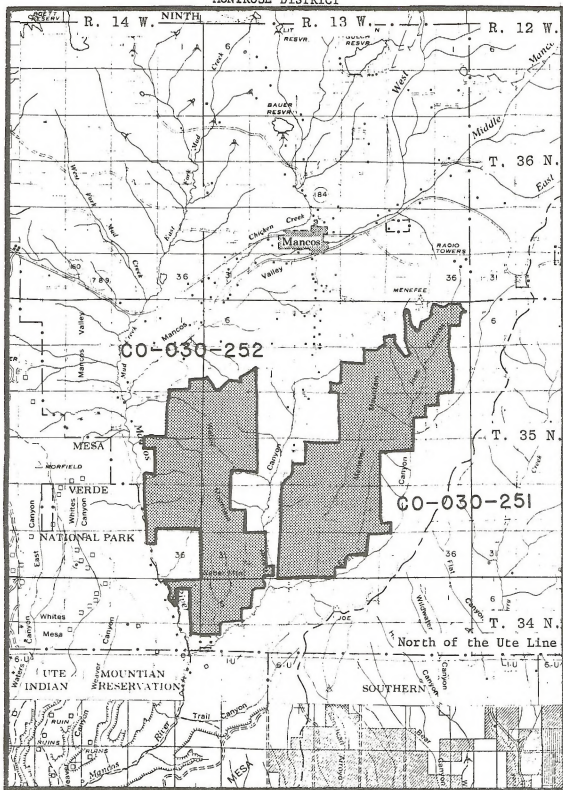
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1380	Ironton
1381	Handies Peak
1382	Redcloud Peak
1438, 1439	Howardsville, Pole Creek Mt.

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



138 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

Twenty-one miles west of Durango (Montezuma County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7,360 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No: CO-030-251
Area Name: Meneffee Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Within this inventory unit are 40 acres of non-public land in-holdings. Oil and gas leases exist on the unit. Grazing is authorized for this area and constitutes the primary land use. The topography of the area is characterized by steep, rugged terrain with several small canyons. Piñon-juniper and various mountain shrubs constitute the primary vegetation, with Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir dominating at higher elevations. Archeological sites show evidence of past human usage.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment stated that several roads exist on this unit but no specific locations were given.

No comments address the subjects of size or naturalness for this unit.

General Comments:

Two comments state that this unit overlies deep-seated coal beds and express concern that future coal exploration could be hindered if the unit became a wilderness area.

Two comments state that this unit overlies oil and gas deposits.

One comment states that opportunities for solitude would not be present due to sights and sounds of man's activities outside of the unit.

Conflicting resource values will be considered during the Study Phase.

Four comments support reclassifying this unit as a wilderness area.

Two indepth reports were submitted describing the area in detail. Both strongly advocate designating this area as a wilderness area for a variety of reasons, including geological, topographical, vegetation and historical features. The overall pristine condition of the area is stressed.

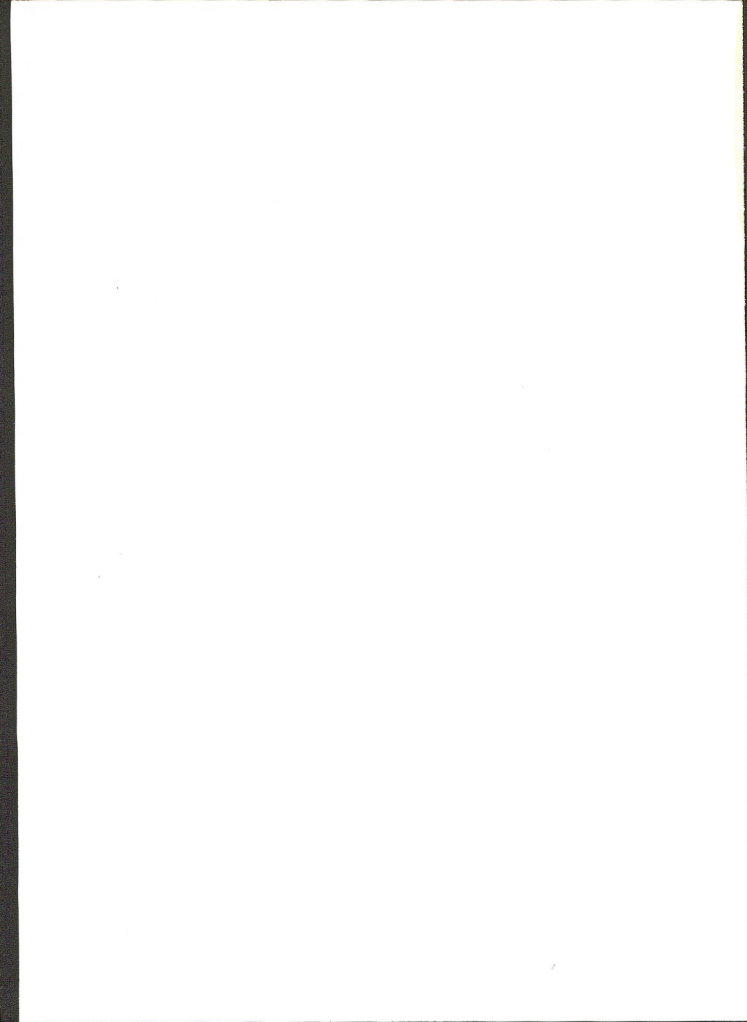
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size, contains few imprints of man and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
1659	Point Lookout
1715	Wetherill Mesa
1716	Moccasin Mesa
1660	Mancos
	Thompson Park
	Trail Canyon

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-20



GENERAL LOCATION:

Twenty-four miles west of Durango (Montezuma County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,560 acres	Inventory No: CO-030-252
District: Montrose	Area Name: Weber Mountain
	State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on this unit. The entire area is leased for grazing and this constitutes the primary land use. A few stock reservoirs are the only known permanent improvements. Several archeological sites have been identified. The topography of the area is characterized by steep, rugged terrain with several small canyons. Pinyon-jumper and mountain shrubs are the dominant vegetation types. Mesa Verde National Park lies to the west, Colorado Inventory Unit CO-030-291 lies to the east, and mostly private lands lie to the north and south. All lands within the unit are BLM-managed public lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roads: One comment states there is a country road within the unit. A field check revealed there are no roads in the unit.

General Comments:

Two comments state that the unit overlies deep-seated coal beds and express concern that future coal exploration could be hindered if the unit became a wilderness area.

Two comments state that the unit overlies oil and gas deposits.

One comment states that opportunities for solitude do not exist due to the visibility of the activities of man in adjacent areas.

Conflicting resource values will be considered in the study phase.

Three comments support reclassifying this area as a wilderness area.

Two indepth reports were submitted describing the area in great detail. Both strongly advocate designating this area as wilderness for a variety of reasons, including unusual geological, topographical and vegetational features. The overall pristine condition of the area is stressed.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The area is of sufficient size, contains few imprints of man and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

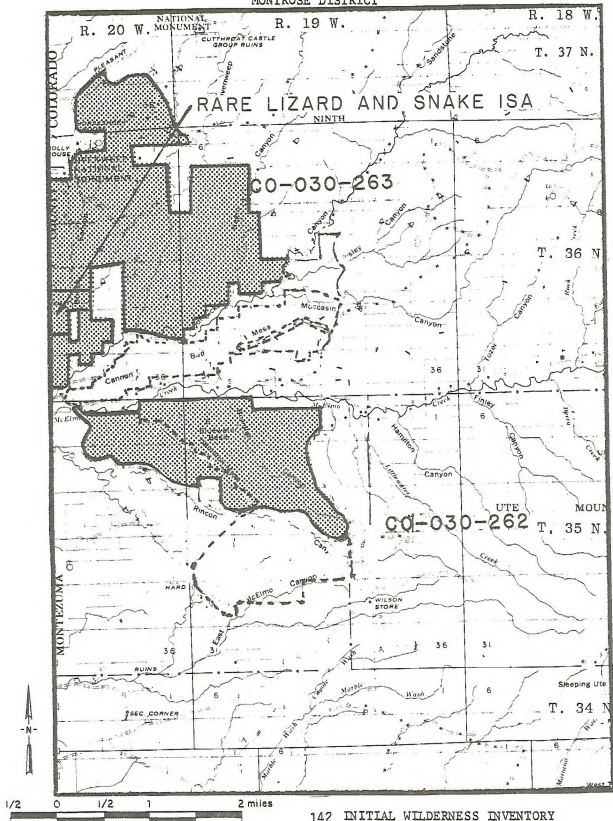
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1659	Point Lookout
1715	Wetherill Mesa
1716	Moccasin Mesa
1660	Hancos
	Trail Canyon

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-20

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



142 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

Southwest of Cortez (Montezuma County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	6,460 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-262
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Hamilton Mesa
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. Grazing is the primary land use in the area. The unit contains several old stock reservoirs. No active mining is evident, but several speculative uranium mining claims are located within the unit. There are oil and gas leases in the unit. The area contains several archeological sites and ruins. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush-grass and pinion-juniper. Rolling mesa tops and rugged canyons characterize the area. There are no non-public lands within the unit. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 2,200 acres have been added to the northwest when intensive field work found no significant imprints of man in the area. A substantially noticeable way going through Rincon Canyon becomes the boundary to the south.

Deletion:

The southern portion of the unit (approximately 2,500 acres) was deleted when the boundary was altered to exclude a way running through Rincon Canyon and up on Hamilton Mesa. Though not regularly maintained, the way provides access to non-public lands and stock reservoirs and insures regular and continuous use. It bisected the unit, making the southern section unmanageable due to size.

In Section 30, T. 34N., R. 19W., the boundary was adjusted to the northeast to omit a powerline right-of-way.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Six public comments were submitted for the Hamilton Mesa Unit.

Size: No comments address the size of the unit.

Roads: One comment refers to roads being in the area but does not specify location. The need for access to private lands was also mentioned.

Naturalness: A general comment concerning naturalness was made stating that the area contained no feature that positively influenced the feeling of remoteness or solitude. No rationale was given.

General Comments:

Another general comment was made concerning the uniqueness of pinion-juniper and high desert within the wilderness system. The comment stated that this type of ecosystem had limited representation within wilderness and would be appropriate to classify additional areas under the system.

Two comments were submitted stating the unit meets criteria established by the Wilderness Act and deserves further consideration.

Three concerned groups commented on uranium, oil and gas potential within the unit. Conflicting resource values are assessed during the Wilderness Study Phase (Phase II of the BLM Wilderness Review Program). Evaluation of alternate resource values are not included in the inventory phase.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

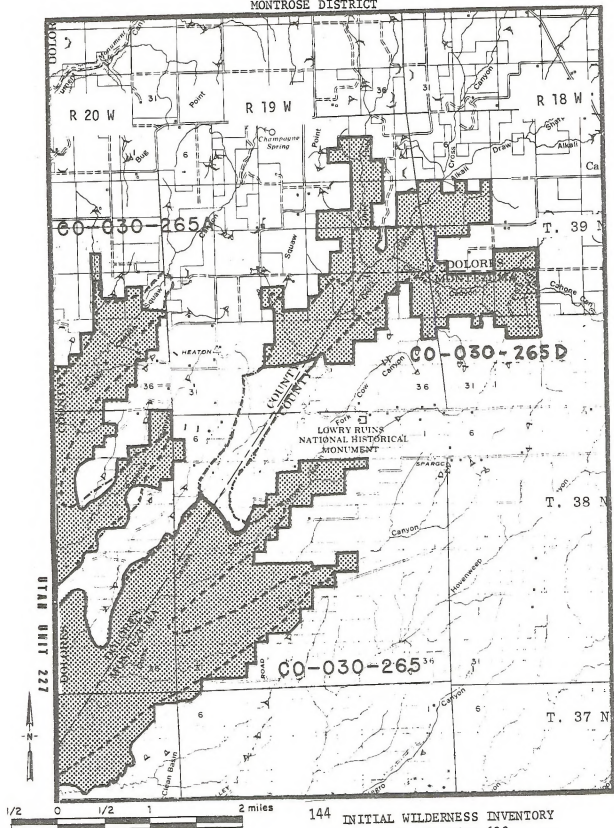
The unit is of sufficient size (6,460 acres) and contains few imprints of man. The area appears to be primarily natural with the impact of man substantially unnoticeable. Road inventories proved that no maintained roads receiving regular and continuous use exist within the unit (Consequently, no changes have been made as a result of public comment).

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office	U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:
Photo Map No:	33-99
	36-41
	Aneth 1 SE
	Moqui SW

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-19

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



144 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

West of Cahone, south of Pleasant View (Dolores and Montezuma Counties).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	9,160 acres	Inventory No:	CO-030-265
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Cross Canyon
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is contiguous with Utah's Wilderness Inventory Unit No. UT-060-117. Grazing leases exist and constitute the primary land use. There has been some mineral exploration and portions of the unit are leased for oil and gas exploration. The area consists of one large, steep canyon and two side canyons with tributary streams. Vegetation is primarily piñon pine and juniper with the associated understory of sage, grasses and cacti. Land ownership outside the unit boundary is private lands. This unit is contiguous with Utah Inventory Unit No. UT-060-229, which has been recommended for intensive inventory.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

The following boundary adjustments have been made to include public lands which previously bordered the unit. These lands were determined to be natural in character and, therefore, the boundaries were drawn back to non-public lands:

1. All or portions of Sections 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31 and 32, T. 38N., R. 19W.
2. Part of Section 6, T. 37N., R. 19W.
3. Portions of Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, T. 37N., R. 20W.

Deletions:

All or portions of Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, T. 38N., R. 19W. and all or portions of Sections 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, T. 39N., R. 19W. were deleted from Unit 265 due to the cumulative affect of man's imprints in the area. The boundary has been drawn to delete 7 abandoned drill pads, 6-8 old mine adits, and numerous ways resulting in a 1,280-acre deletion. This deletion has divided the unit into two separate units, resulting in a 4,320 total acreage loss to Unit 265 (see Unit 265D).

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Twelve comments were received from the public on the Cross Canyon unit. They addressed the following aspects of the unit's suitability for intensive inventory and/or eventual wilderness designation.

Size: None of the comments dealt with the total size of the unit, but one individual felt that the long and narrow shape of the area, generally defined by canyons, reduced opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude will be addressed in detail by the BLM in the Intensive Inventory phase of the Wilderness Review.

Roads: Several comments called attention to the abundance of roads in the central portion of what was then unit No. CO-030-265. Subsequent field checks resulted in boundary modifications which excluded those roads from the unit and split the former Unit 265 into two units, 265 and 265D (Cahone).

Naturalness: A number of substantially noticeable imprints of man were identified in several of the comments. These included roads, old drilling sites, a building and old mines. These impairments of naturalness were excluded via the aforementioned modifications of the preliminary initial inventory boundaries.

General Comments:

One comment noted the rich archeological resources present throughout the Cross Canyon unit.

Several comments were received from persons involved in mineral resource endeavors. The comments touched on several points. Some were concerned that wilderness designation would interfere with mineral resource exploitation in the unit and impair the nation's economic security. Others noted the probable existence of uranium in the unit and the existence of a number of valid mining claims. They were also concerned that wilderness designation would obstruct their ability to assess and develop these claims. Conflicts between wilderness resources and other resources will be examined by the BLM during the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-265 Continued

One comment identified the unit as an area that is likely to contain fossils of vertebrates.

Four comments supported continued consideration of the unit in the BLM Wilderness Review process. One person stated that the Cross Canyon unit is especially valuable as wilderness because the pinyon-juniper and high desert ecotypes found therein are inadequately represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System at the present time. Three other comments said that the area met the criteria for inclusion in the wilderness system as set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964, and urged that it be intensively inventoried. Field checks by the BLM confirmed this unit's suitability for intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (9,000 acres) and contains few substantial imprints of man (and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation). There are no roads within the inventory unit and the area appears primarily natural in character.

REFERENCES:

U.S.C.S. Topographic Quads: Colorado Aerial Photos:

Cedar 3 NW	005-018
Cedar 3 SW	119-122
Moqui NW	128-130
Monument Canyon	075-080
Cajon Mesa	034-058
Aneth NE	

Colorado Surface-Mineral Management Quads: SW-13, SW-19

GENERAL LOCATION:

West of Cahone, south of Pleasant View (Dolores County in west-central Colorado).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	5,320 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-265A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Squaw/Papoose Canyon
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit contains 5,320 acres and is contiguous with Utah's Intensive Inventory No. UT-060-227. Grazing is authorized for the area and constitutes the primary land use. There has been mineral exploration in the area and portions of the unit have been leased for oil and gas exploration. The area consists of two, deep canyons, each approximately a mile wide, separated by rolling mesas. Vegetation is primarily piñon pine and juniper and grasses. There are numerous archeological sites within the unit. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries consists of private lands. This unit is adjacent to Utah Inventory Unit No. UT-060-227, which has been recommended for intensive inventory.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

The following boundary adjustments have been made to include public lands. A field check determined the areas to be natural in character; therefore, the boundary has been drawn back to private property.

1. Portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 22 of T. 38N., R. 20W.
2. Portions of Sections 14, 23, 24, 25, 27, 35 36, of T. 38N., R. 20W.
3. Part of Section 19, T. 39N., R. 19W.

Deletions:

1. Sections 7 and 18, T. 39N., R. 19W., 320 acres of Squaw Canyon have been deleted and the boundary was adjusted to exclude one operating well and an abandoned drill pad.
2. Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, T. 39N., R. 20W., 120 acres of Papoose Canyon were deleted when the boundary was adjusted to exclude a chained area.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Two comments stating the area did not meet the 5,000-acre size requirement were received. The unit consists of 5,320 acres and, therefore, meets the size criteria.

Roads: Three comments address the "numerous roads" within the unit; a field check revealed no roads within the unit boundaries.

Naturalness: Two comments support a wilderness designation for this unit due to the naturalness of the area. One statement refers to the roadlessness, sufficient size and opportunities for solitude within the unit.

One comment states there is "obvious lack of solitude". No rationale was discussed.

General Comments:

One comment supports reclassification of this unit to a wilderness area.

Nine public comments were concerned with the "considerable" mineral resource potential within the unit. The most explicit letter states "the tract overlies deep-seated coal located in the coal-bearing region of the San Juan Basin".

Six of these comments directly relate to potential oil and gas development. One comment was concerned with possible uranium development.

These conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and have no effect on the Intensive Inventory.

One comment concerning the possible fossil vertebrate resources within the unit was received. Public comment also includes several statements as to the abundance of archeological sites in the canyons.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-265A Continued

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The Unit is of sufficient size (5,320 acres). A field check determined there are no roads within the unit boundaries. It contains few imprints of man and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

REFERENCES:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:	Colorado Aerial Photos:
Cedar 3 NW	005-018
Cedar 3 SW	119-122
Moqui NW	128-130
Monument Canyon	075-080
Cajon Mesa	054-058
Anech NE	

Colorado Surface-Mineral Management Quads: SW-13, SW-19

GENERAL LOCATION:

The unit is south of Dove Creek, Colorado and is in Dolores and Montezuma Counties.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	8,550 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-265D
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Cahone Canyon
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit includes northern Cross Canyon and its confluence with Dove Creek and Cahone Creek. The canyons in the area are vegetated with piñon-juniper forests, semi-desert shrub communities, and riparian communities. Some livestock grazing occurs in the area, and recreational uses include hiking and hunting. There are no known patented mining claims or private inholdings in the unit, and land ownership outside of the unit consists of private lands and public lands administered by the BLM.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Unit No. CO-030-265D is the result of major adjustments of the boundary of Unit No. CO-030-265, Cross Canyon, and additions to the northernmost portion of Cross Canyon. The exclusion of part of Unit No. CO-030-265 split that area into two areas, Nos. 265 and 265D.

Additions:

Approximately 3,375 acres were added to the unit when contiguous public lands in the Cahone Canyon region were found to be natural in character.

Public lands, including part of Dove Creek Canyon, qualify for wilderness inventory, and 1,260 acres were added to the northernmost part of the unit.

Drawing the boundary back to BLM private land boundaries added about 360 acres to the unit.

Deletions:

In Section 14, T. 39N., R. 19W., about 80 acres was deleted on McCloud Point to exclude an oil and gas exploratory drilling pad.

The major deletion was the exclusion of approximately 1,280 acres in Sections 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, T. 39N., R. 19W., and Sections 4, 5, 6, and 8, T. 38N., R. 19W. This area contains oil and gas drilling pads, roads, ways, mine shafts and adits, and a cabin. The cumulative impacts of these impairments to naturalness is extreme and necessitated by the exclusion of this acreage from the unit. This deletion split Unit 265 into Unit Nos. 265 and 265D.

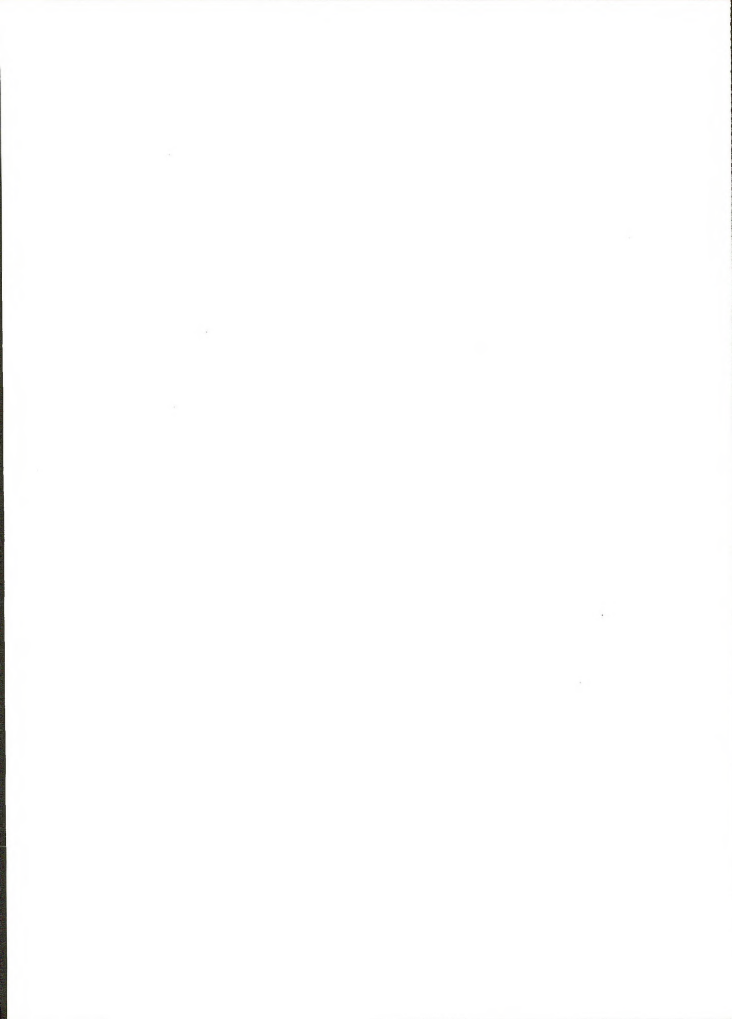
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments were received from 13 parties with regard to Cross Canyon which, at that time, included about 3,600 acres of public land that is now a part of Unit No. CO-030-365D.

Size: No comments addressed the total acreage of the unit, but two comments stated that the long, narrow configuration of the unit interfered with the area's opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude will be addressed in the Intensive Inventory phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

Roads: A number of comments noted the existence of roads within the original unit-No. CO-030-265, Cross Canyon-which were built in conjunction with historical and ongoing mineral resource activities. These roads were excluded from Unit 265, splitting the former Cross Canyon unit into two units, Cross Canyon and Cahone.

Naturalness: The major impairments of naturalness that were mentioned in public comments were those related to mineral resource activities such as old drilling sites, mine shafts, buildings, and improved access routes. No specific locations of these impairments were given. Boundary modifications which were made as a result of field checks, exclude these impairments from the unit.



INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-265D Continued

General Comments:

A number of comments were received from persons involved with mineral resource development enterprises. One comment noted that the unit is underlain by probable uranium-bearing rocks and several comments stated that numerous valid uranium load claims existed in the area and expressed concern that continued consideration of the unit as a potential wilderness area might interfere with exploration and claim assessment work. Resource conflicts such as these will be considered by the BLM in detail during the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review, but are not a concern of the Initial Inventory.

One comment noted the abundance of important archeological sites in the unit, while another stated that the unit might contain valuable fossils of extinct vertebrates.

Comments from the Montezuma and Dolores County Commissioners expressed concern that wilderness designation would interfere with the exploitation of the mineral resources that are thought to exist in the unit.

Several comments stated that to limit the exploitation of the area's mineral resources via wilderness designation would harm the nation's economic security. Again, these types of conflicts will be thoroughly addressed during the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

Four comments supported the continued inventory of the unit's wilderness characteristics and recommended its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. One individual noted that wilderness designation was appropriate because pinyon-jumper and high desert ecotypes are not yet represented adequately in the wilderness system. Three others stated that the area met the criteria for wilderness as expressed in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Field checks performed by BLM personnel confirmed the unit's suitability for intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

Unit No. CO-030-265D is of sufficient size and is primarily natural in character (It appears to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude). In addition, cultural resources in the form of archeological sites are abundant and constitute a supplemental value.

REFERENCES:

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quads: SW-13, SW-19

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:

Cedar 3 SW (7.5')

Cahone (7.5')

Pleasant View (7.5')



GENERAL LOCATION:

Fifteen miles south of Naturita (San Miguel and Dolores Counties).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 44,060 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-286
Area Name: McKenna Peak
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. No mineral production is evident though the area has potential for coal and uranium mining. The unit is primarily used for livestock grazing, though some hunting takes place. The area is characterized by deeply-eroding adobe foundations and open park expanses. Thick stands of pinyon-juniper cover the higher elevations while mixed grasses and sage form the predominant vegetation on the valley floors. Most of the land within the unit boundaries is public land except for one private inholding. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of public, private and State lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 8,700 acres have been added to the west due to a field check which revealed that the area was predominantly natural in character.

Approximately 11,000 acres have been added to the northwest when a field check showed no significant imprints of man in the area.

Approximately 1,760 acres have been added to the east when an aerial flight revealed that the area was primarily natural in character.

Deletions:

No deletions have been made to the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eleven comments were received concerning Unit CO-030-286.

Size: (see Naturalness)

Roads: One comment was made addressing the need for access into the State lands within and adjacent to the unit.

All State lands are outside the unit and are accessible without entering the wilderness area.

Another comment referred to county roads within the unit. All maintained roads were excluded from the initial boundary.

Naturalness: One comment recommended reducing the unit significantly due to the lack of primitive qualities near public roads and adjacent to private lands.

General Comments:

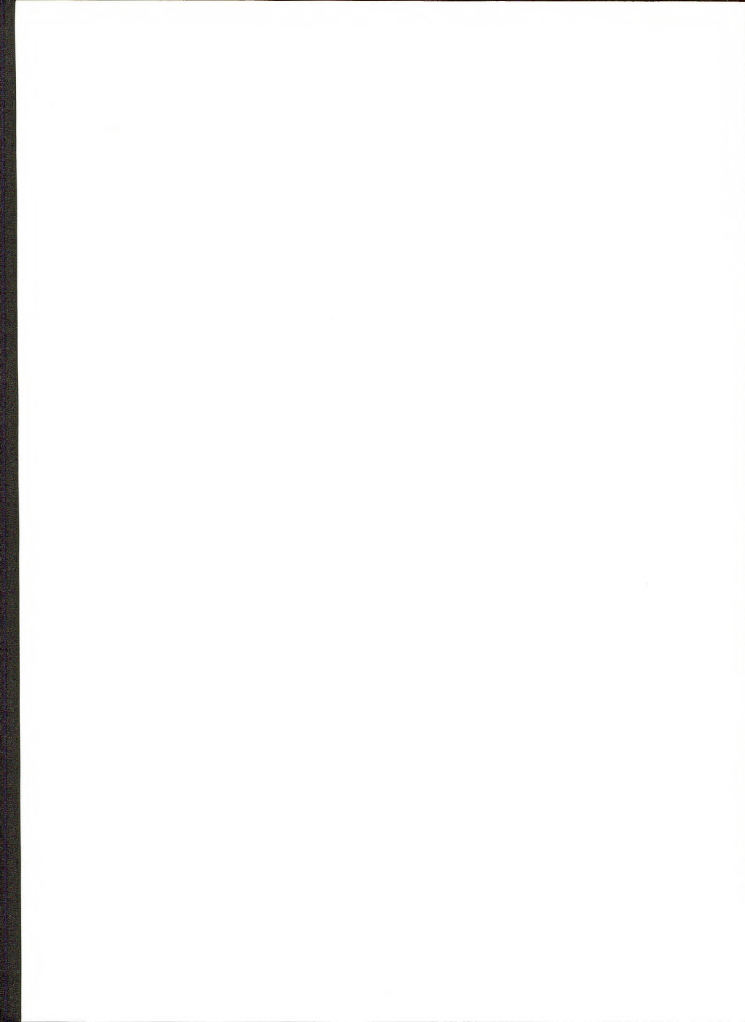
Three comments addressed the unit's potential for mineral production. One comment stated the area should be withdrawn from wilderness due to coal, uranium and oil and gas deposits. Another comment referred specifically to coal exploration and how wilderness designation would hinder future exploration. A general statement recommended that the unit be managed as a primitive area so essential minerals could be developed in the future. These concerns will be addressed in the Wilderness Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review Program.

Another general comment was made addressing the unit's positive qualities for wilderness. It stated that the area met wilderness qualifications as described in the 1964 Wilderness Act, that it possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude, was untrammeled by man, lacked roads and has substantial size.

An additional comment recommended further study of the unit stating that data had been collected on the unit and supported wilderness criteria set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (44,060 acres), is predominantly natural in character, containing no substantially noticeable imprints



INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-286 Continued

of man. Though roads are nearby and private lands are adjacent to the unit, outside sights and sounds are not considered in the inventory phase. Conflicting resource values such as mineral development in contrast with wilderness values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect the inventory phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

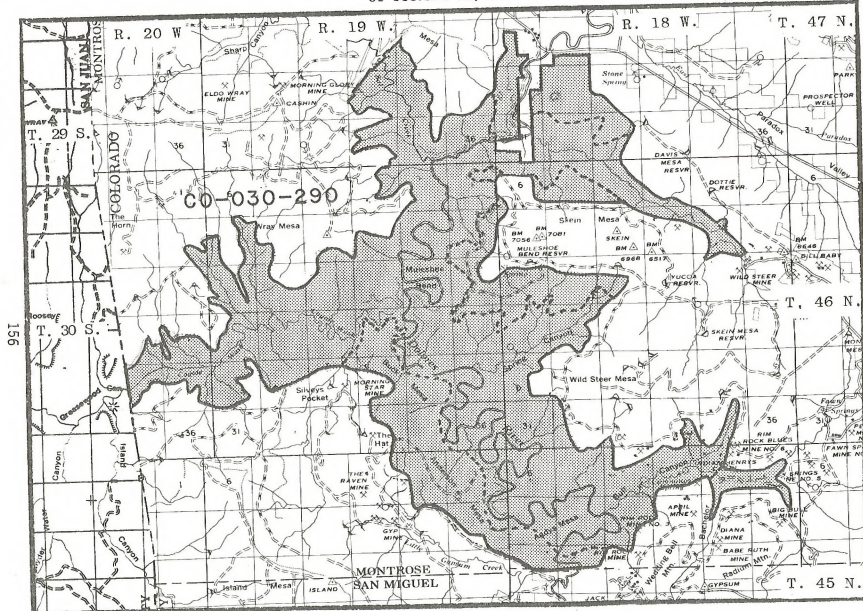
REFERENCES:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:

Dawson Draw
McKenna Peak
Glade Mountain
North Mountain
South Mountain

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quads: SW-13, SW-14

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



GENERAL LOCATION:

Western Colorado, approximately 13 miles west of Naturita (Montrose County, San Miguel County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	31,585 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-290
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Dolores River Canyon
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. All of the unit is leased for exploration and development of oil and gas. Much of the unit is leased for grazing. There are no known patented mining claims within the unit, although there are many unpatented mining claims. Outside the unit boundary, there have been extensive mineral exploration and mining activity (mostly uranium) but evidence of these activities within the unit is minimal and not substantially noticeable. River running is a popular recreation activity from late April to late June, depending upon river flow. The portion of the Dolores River within this inventory unit has been recommended for National Wild River status. The topography of this unit is characterized by deep, sheer-walled sandstone canyons and flat or gently rolling benchlands. Vegetation is primarily pinon-juniper and sagebrush (upper Sonoran) with a dense riparian growth in the canyon bottoms. All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Land ownership outside the unit boundary is mostly public lands with some private lands. This unit is contiguous with Utah Inventory Unit No. UT-060-148, which has not been recommended for intensive inventory.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

As a result of a field check, the following areas which were found to be natural in character were added and the boundary was drawn back to roads, private property or areas with significant imprints of man.

Approximately 640 acres have been added to the north portion of the unit between the Dolores River and Nyswanger Mesa. This area was found to be primarily natural in character.

Approximately 1,240 acres have been added to the north portion of the unit east of the Dolores River. This included some of the rim lands above Wild Steer Canyon which were found to be primarily natural in character.

Approximately 2,160 acres have been added to the eastern part of the unit to include the benchlands below Stein Mesa and above Wild Steer and Spring Canyons. A field check revealed no significant imprints of man.

Approximately 680 acres have been added to the southeastern portion of the unit to include parts of Bull Canyon, Bachelor Draw and Wild Horse Draw which had previously been excluded because of supposed mining activity. A field check revealed there were no significant impairments below the Entrada formation on the canyon rim.

Approximately 3,800 acres have been added to the south and southwestern portions of the unit due to a field check which revealed no significant imprints of man in the area. A few ways exist on Buck and Anderson Mesas which are mostly overgrown and substantially unnoticeable.

Deletions:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Seventeen comments were received concerning Unit CO-030-290.

Size: One comment suggested excluding those tributary canyons within the unit so as to make the area more manageable. Manageability of wilderness will be considered during the Study Phase.

Roads: Three comments were received which state that this unit has many roads and much mining activity. A field check revealed these imprints to be outside the unit, whereas a few undeveloped ways that are substantially unnoticeable have been found within the unit.

Another comment referred to county roads within the area. All maintained roads have been excluded from the unit.



INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-290 Continued

Naturalness: One comment states that the area is a historic uranium/vanadium mining district with multiple drill roads-not natural in character. Resource values other than wilderness are not being considered during the inventory phase of the BLM Wilderness Review. However, the study phase will look at grazing, mining, and other resource potentials. Drill roads and other noticeable impairments from mining exploration have not been included within the inventory unit.

Another comment was made referring to numerous imprints of man within the unit and the unit's overall lack of wilderness qualities. Boundaries have been adjusted to exclude all major imprints. A field check revealed that the unit does meet wilderness criteria as set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

One comment stated that roadless areas adjacent to or near the Dolores River are of scenic quality unique for Colorado. Public lands, administered by the BLM which were found to be primarily natural in character, have been included in the Dolores River Canyon inventory unit.

General Comments:

One comment stated that based upon inspection of a 15-minute topographic map, the unit is surrounded by mining activity and that such activities (outside the unit) destroy any sense of solitude in the unit. Solitude will be considered in the intensive inventory phase. Outside sights and sounds will not be considered when evaluating a unit for solitude characteristics.

One comment noted the unit to have wilderness qualities, as described in the 1964 Wilderness Act. This public comment recommended the unit for intensive inventory. A field check revealed the unit to be primarily natural in character and the area has been recommended for intensive inventory. Four similar general comments were received supporting further wilderness study.

Two statements opposed further wilderness study due to the unit's mineral potential. Continued study could postpone and possibly stop future exploration and mining. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase and do not affect intensive inventory recommendations.

Concern was expressed at two public meetings that mining activity in Bull Canyon would be curtailed. Most concern originated over a misinterpretation of the inventory unit's boundary.

One comment noted the presence of fossil vertebrates within the unit. Fossil resources are considered supplemental values in the intensive inventory phase and will be further considered during this Study Phase if recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (31,585 acres), contains few imprints of man and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Although the naturalness of much of the surrounding public land has been severely impaired by mineral exploration and mining activity, the unit boundary has been drawn to exclude these disturbed areas.

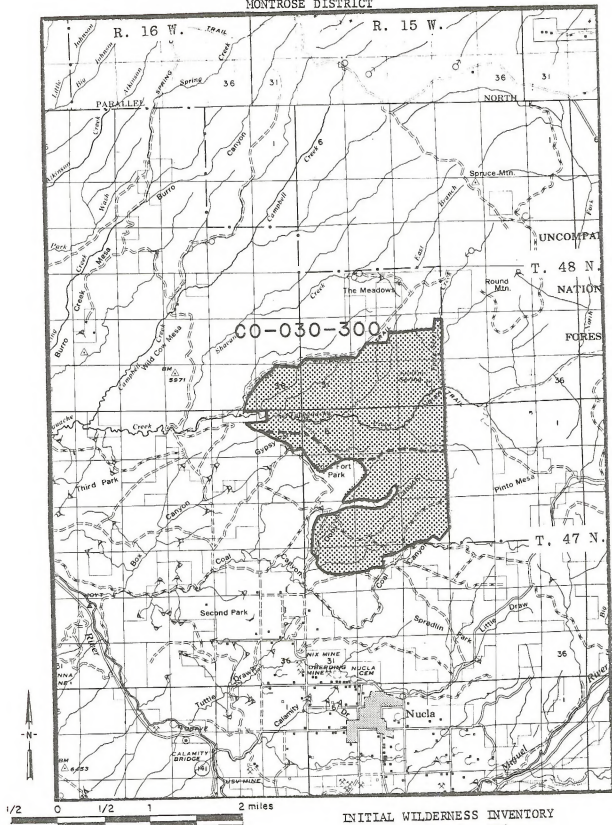
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1198	La Sal
1199	Paradox
1253	Lisbon Valley
1256	Anderson Mesa

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

Three miles north of Nucla (Montrose County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,814 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: CO-030-300
Area Name: Tabeguache Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

There are no easements on this unit. The area has had some mineral exploration activity but no known patented mining claims have been found. Grazing is authorized for the entire unit and constitutes the primary land use. Hunting occurs throughout the unit. The topography of the area is characterized by the steep, rugged terrain of Tabeguache Creek and other drainages and by the gently sloping or hilly terrain of the interfingering mesas and ridges. Vegetation is primarily piñon-juniper with some open, grassy parks and a lush riparian habitat along the perennial Tabeguache Creek. There are 160 acres of private land inholdings along Tabeguache Creek. All other lands within the unit are public lands. This unit is contiguous with the 10,240-acre proposed Forest Service Wilderness Unit No. 242.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

Approximately 3,794 acres have been added to the southern portion of the unit. The original boundary was drawn to exclude areas that had supposedly been chained. A field check revealed that much of this area had not been chained and was primarily natural in character. These lands have been added to the unit, and the boundary has been drawn back to private property, roads and areas where man's imprint is substantially noticeable.

Deletions:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments regarding size or roads were received.

Naturalness: Three comments recognized this unit as being primarily natural in character and recommended it for intensive inventory.

General Comments:

One comment stated that this unit was located on an outcrop of an existing coal field and expressed concern that wilderness designation would deny access to future coal reserves. Conflicting resource values are not assessed in this inventory phase, however, they are intensively evaluated in the Wilderness Study Phase.

One comment noted this unit to be semi-arid land not normally considered wilderness. They felt this type of ecosystem should be represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

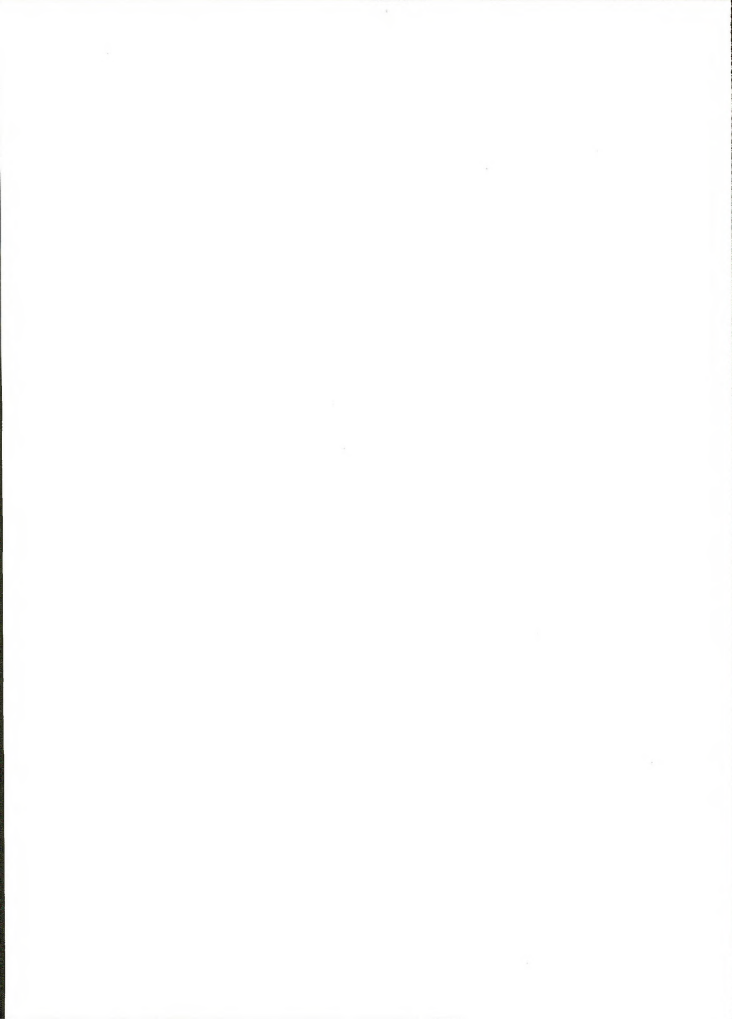
This unit is of sufficient size (8,814 acres), is primarily natural in character and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. It is contiguous with the 10,240-acre Forest Service proposed wilderness area No. 242.

REFERENCES:

Colorado Surface Management Quad: SW-7

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:

Nucla
Windy Point



General Location

Adjacent to BLM Inventory Unit No. CO-070-176 - North of Paradox
(Montrose County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	1,840 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-030-310A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Sewemup Mesa
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Within the unit are approximately 15 acres of non-public lands inholdings which appear to be a patented mine claim. Several other claims are also within the inventory unit, and some mining has taken place. The area is part of the geologic formation known as Sewemup Mesa, which is extremely rough and dissected by small, intermittent streams. Pinyon-juniper constitutes the primary vegetation of the area. The unit is contiguous to inventory unit CO-070-170, which is recommended by the Grand Junction District for intensive inventory.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Six comments were received concerning CO-030-310A.

Size: One comment opposed further study of the unit because it did not meet size requirements. However, the Wilderness Inventory handbook states that size criteria for wilderness can be satisfied if the area is "contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values". Unit CO-030-310A is contiguous with Unit CO-070-130, which is recommended by the Grand Junction District BLM for intensive inventory and, therefore, meets size requirements.

Roads: A comment was made stating that State Highway 141 was within the unit. The highway is outside the unit boundary and does not affect the unit's consideration for intensive inventory.

General Comments:

A Sierra Club field study report was submitted in the unit, supplying inventory information and recommendations. This information will be considered further in the Intensive Inventory and Study Phase.

Two other general comments were made stating that the unit meets the wilderness criteria specified in the 1964 Wilderness Act and that the unit deserves further study.

One comment opposed further study of the unit due to its potential for uranium and oil and gas production. Conflicting resource values will be considered in the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review and does not affect intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is large enough when considered with contiguous BLM lands recommended for intensive inventory and it is primarily natural in character.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

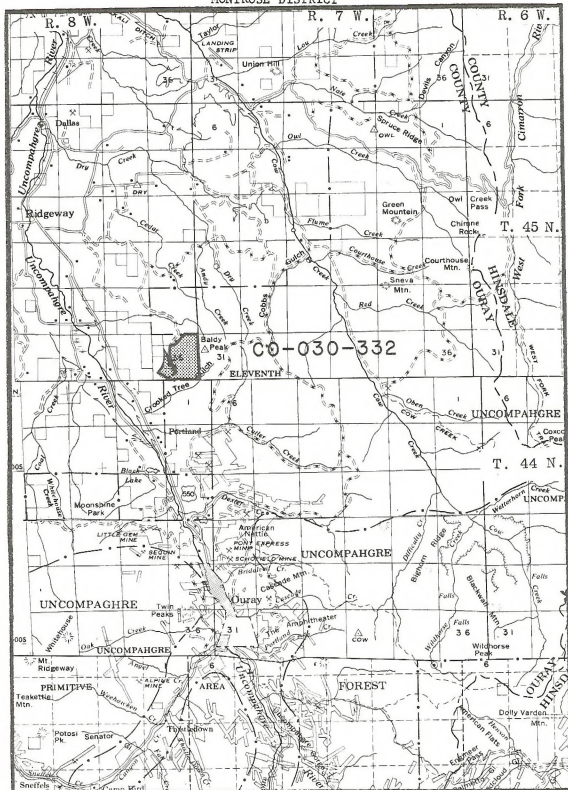
1141
1142

La Sal
Roc Creek

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-7

NOTE: The map for this unit is located on page 206 with Grand Junction Inventory Unit CO-070-176.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



164 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

This unit is located 3.5 miles southeast of Ridgway, 5 miles north of Ouray (Ouray County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	400 acres	Inventory No:	GO-030-332
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Baldy Peak Contiguous
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. The area has no known patented mining claims. Grazing is authorized for the entire unit and this constitutes the primary land use. The area is very popular for deer and elk hunting. The vegetation is sub-alpine meadows of grasses and browse shrubs and patches of spruce-aspen woodland. Topographically, the unit consists mainly of the steep west slope of Baldy Peak with some flat to rolling meadow areas near the west boundary. All lands within the unit boundary are public lands. The east and south boundaries of the unit are contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service RARE II area #228 which has been recommended for wilderness designation.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 40 acres have been added to the southwest corner of the unit. Field work revealed that this area was natural in character (see map).

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

There are no comments concerning roads or naturalness.

Size: One comment stated the area is less than 5,000 acres in size and that the unit should not be considered for wilderness inventory even though it is contiguous to proposed or designated wilderness lands administered by another Federal agency. FLPMA Section 603(a) designates the BLM to inventory their lands according to "wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act..." The 1964 Wilderness Act specifically states "at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation..." The land contiguous to USFS wilderness land is of sufficient size, when combined with the USFS land for practical preservation.

General Comments:

Three comments noted wilderness qualities as described in the 1964 Wilderness Act (solitude, untrampled by man, roadlessness and size) to be present in the unit. A field check confirmed these statements.

The State of Colorado entered a comment concerning access to mineral rights. The Wilderness Study Phase will address these concerns.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

This unit is of sufficient size when considered in conjunction with the contiguous Forest Service RARE II area No. 228 (Baldy Peak) which has been proposed for wilderness designation. The area contains few imprints of man and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation (in conjunction with F.S. RARE II area No. 228).

REFERENCES:

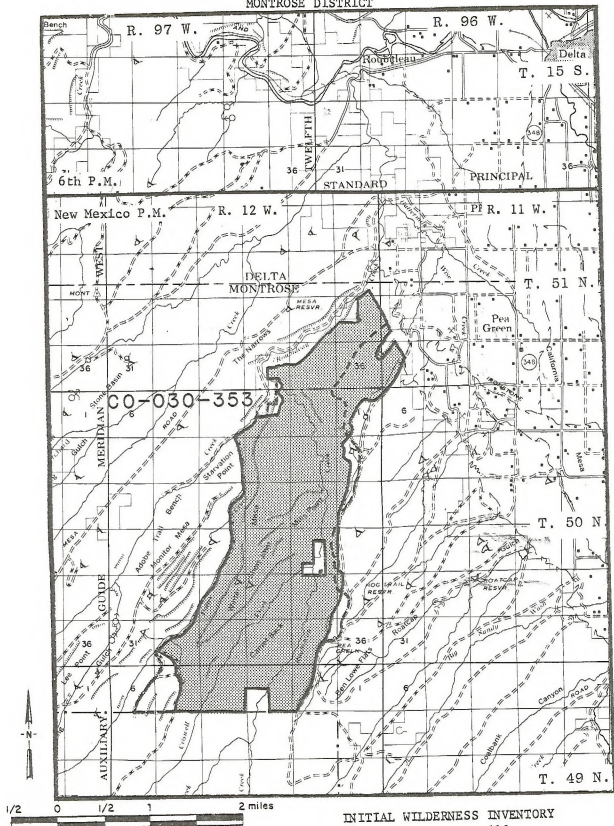
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1322

Mount Sneffels

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

Southwest of Delta, Colorado (Montrose County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,743 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No: CO-030-353
Area Name: Camel Back
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The vegetation of the canyon and mesa terrain ranges from pinion-juniper to lush riparian communities. There are no outstanding easements in the area and no mining claims have been identified. The majority of the area is leased for livestock grazing. One private in-holding, comprising about 180 acres, exists within the area. Land ownership outside the unit is either private or BLM lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 1,000 acres were added in the northeast portion of the unit when aerial and on-the-ground reconnaissance showed the area to be natural in character and free of substantially noticeable imprints of man.

Approximately 80 acres were added along the east side where imprints of man were less extensive than previously suspected.

Deletions:

Some 200 acres of land were deleted from the unit when the north-west boundary was drawn back to the cliffline on top of the east rim of Roubideau Canyon in T. 51N., R. 12W., Sections 25, 26, 34 and 35. This was done when field checks noted that the existence of a bulldozed stock trail and numerous ways in the excluded portion significantly impacted its naturalness.

Approximately 160 acres were deleted from the east side of the unit due to extensive contour furrowing and some chaining.

160 acres were deleted from the southeast portion of the unit, near US. VADM "Pea Green", due to chaining.

Approximately 600 acres were deleted from the southwest corner of the unit because a way was found to be a road.

Somewhat less than 100 acres was deleted near the northwest border to exclude a section of the Winter Mesa Trail which was found to meet the criteria for a road.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

A total of 40 comments have been received which address the Camel Back unit. The majority of these comments do not provide specific information on size, naturalness or roads, but express general feelings about the unit as a possible wilderness. The comments are summarized by subject below.

Size: No comments asserted that the unit is not of sufficient size to qualify for intensive inventory.

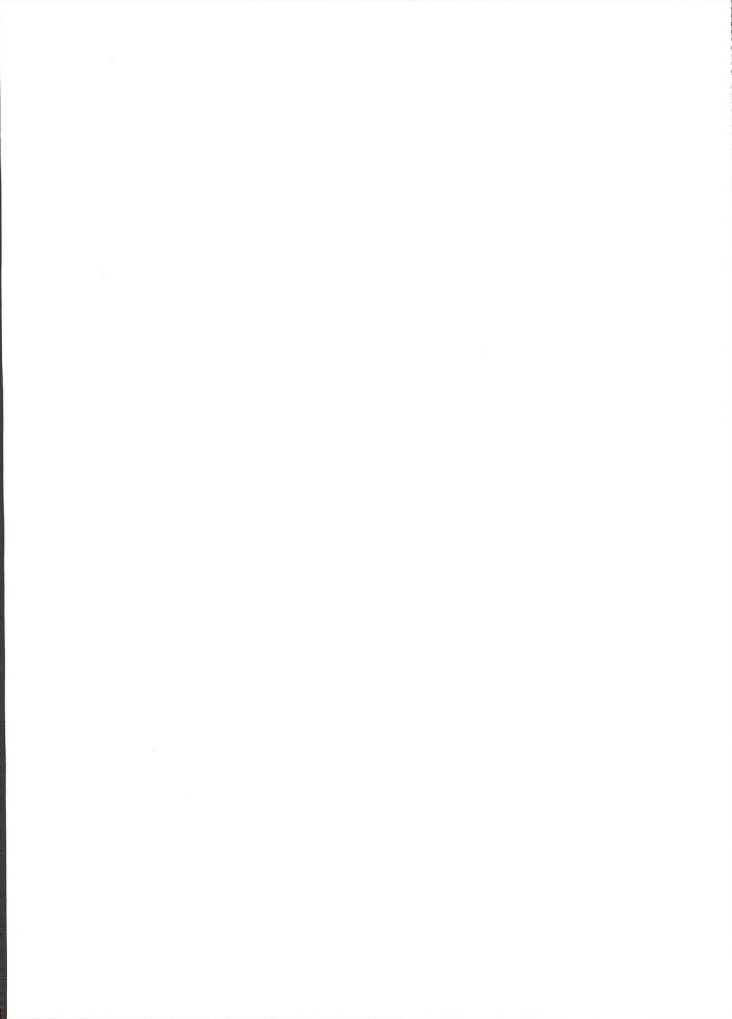
Roads: A number of comments noted that a portion of the Winter Mesa Trail has been constructed and maintained and meets the criteria for a road. Field checks and research by the BLM confirmed this statement, and the initial inventory boundary was adjusted to exclude that portion of the Winter Mesa Trail from the unit.

Several other comments identified roads which were already excluded from the inventory unit boundaries.

Naturalness: Several comments noted the existence of an old mine adit in Roubideau Canyon. A field check by BLM personnel located a shallow, 6' by 10' horizontal adit on the west wall of Roubideau Canyon. There are no wooden or metal tools or hardware associated with the shaft, and it is well-screened by the topography and vegetation of the area. Therefore, it was determined to be substantially unnoticeable in character with a negligible impact on the naturalness of the unit.

One comment identified two old cabin sites in Roubideau Canyon which were unknown to BLM personnel. Field checks failed to find evidence of either cabin site.

Several Comments stated that the area is natural in character and should be intensively inventoried.



General Comments:

A total of 26 comments expressed a general desire that the unit remain open to uses not compatible with wilderness designation. The major concern was a desire for continued use of off-road vehicles in the unit. This potential resource use conflict will be examined by the BLM during the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review and is not a part of the initial inventory.

One comment mentioned a need for vehicle access to maintain water developments for livestock. All but one of the water developments in the general area were excluded from the final initial inventory unit.

A few comments documented substantial recreational use of the area, specifically mentioning hiking and picnicing.

Several comments were received from mineral resource development interests. One expressed concern that deep-seated coal seams might exist beneath the unit and that wilderness designation might impede the extraction of such a deposit. Another comment was concerned that, in general, future BLM wilderness areas might be designated as Class I air quality regions under the Federal Clean Air Act, and that such designation would interfere with oil shale development in western Colorado, which might cause substantial pollution of the air over a large region. Again, these types of potential conflicts will be addressed in the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review.

Several comments expressed general support for the area as a wilderness inventory unit, stating that the Camel Back unit meets the Wilderness Act criteria for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and urging that it be inventoried intensively.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

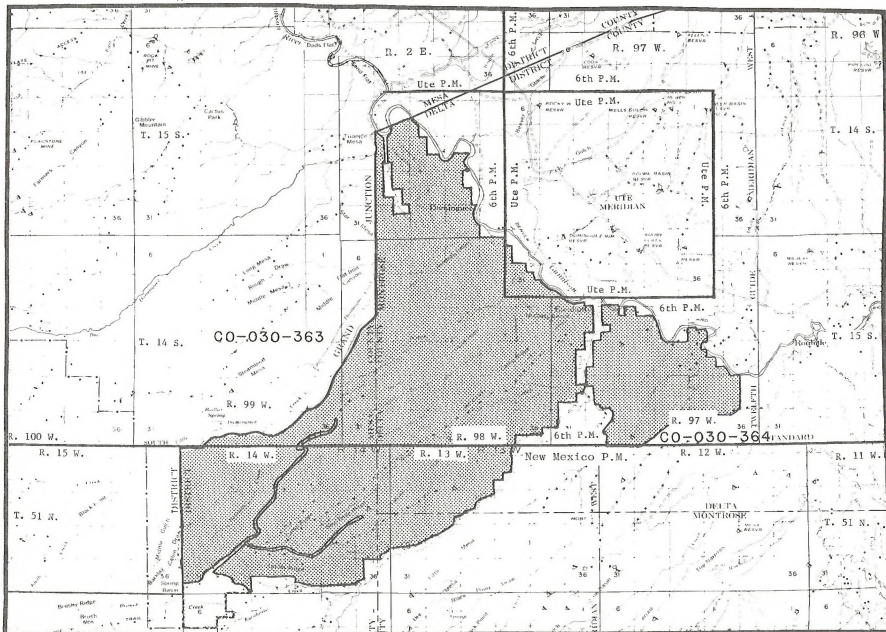
The unit is of sufficient size (13,743 acres), contains few imprints of man, and is primarily natural in character. The high relief of the topography and vegetative screening facilitate outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is also rich in supplemental values. Although the public comments have not supported wilderness designation for the area, only a few addressed the area's suitability for intensive inventory and study, and the impairments of naturalness cited in those comments are not in conflict with the adjusted inventory boundaries.

REFERENCES:

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-2
U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:
 Camelback
 Roubideau

1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



GENERAL LOCATION:

The unit is located in portions of Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties in westcentral Colorado. The unit is on the eastern side of the Uncompagme Plateau, approximately 35 miles south of Grand Junction, 13 miles west of Delta, and 35 miles northwest of Montrose. Highway 50, 3 miles north of the unit, roughly parallels the northwest boundary of the unit (see location map).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	47,487 acres	Inventory No:	CO-030-363
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Dominguez Creek
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

There are 600 acres of state inholdings within the unit's boundaries. Land ownership adjacent to the unit is a mixture of public, state and private lands. Also within the unit's boundaries are 3,464 acres which were withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1957 in preparation for anticipated power needs. The BLM maintains surface management rights. The area is considered to have little mining potential although some mining claims are staked within the unit. There are oil and gas leases within the unit. Grazing is authorized for the unit and constitutes the primary land use. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Excellent opportunities for hunting, cross-country skiing, photography, fishing and general sightseeing also exist. The varied topography provides for diverse vegetation ranging from a dense piñon pine and Utah juniper pygmy forest on the mesas to ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, cottonwoods, and tamarisk riparian vegetation in the canyons.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

The initial inventory boundary remained the same with the exception of a few deletions.

Deletions:

The southwest corner boundary was withdrawn to the Brushy Ridge Trail (previously called a "way") after the field check determined it to be a "road", maintained and receiving regular and continuous use. This withdrawal eliminated approximately 1,000 acres from the initial inventory boundary. The southern boundary was further modified to reflect a 10-acre sale of an agricultural intrusion (irrigated hay meadow) in T. 51N., R. 14W., Section 33 E½ E½ N½ SW¼. The southwest boundary was modified to exclude Cottonwood Springs Recreation Site (30 acres) and Captain Smith's home (1 acre). Portions of three vehicular access routes within the unit were classified as roads because they are maintained and receive regular and continuous use. Exclusion of the 10 miles of road resulted in a 32-acre reduction in total acreage.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

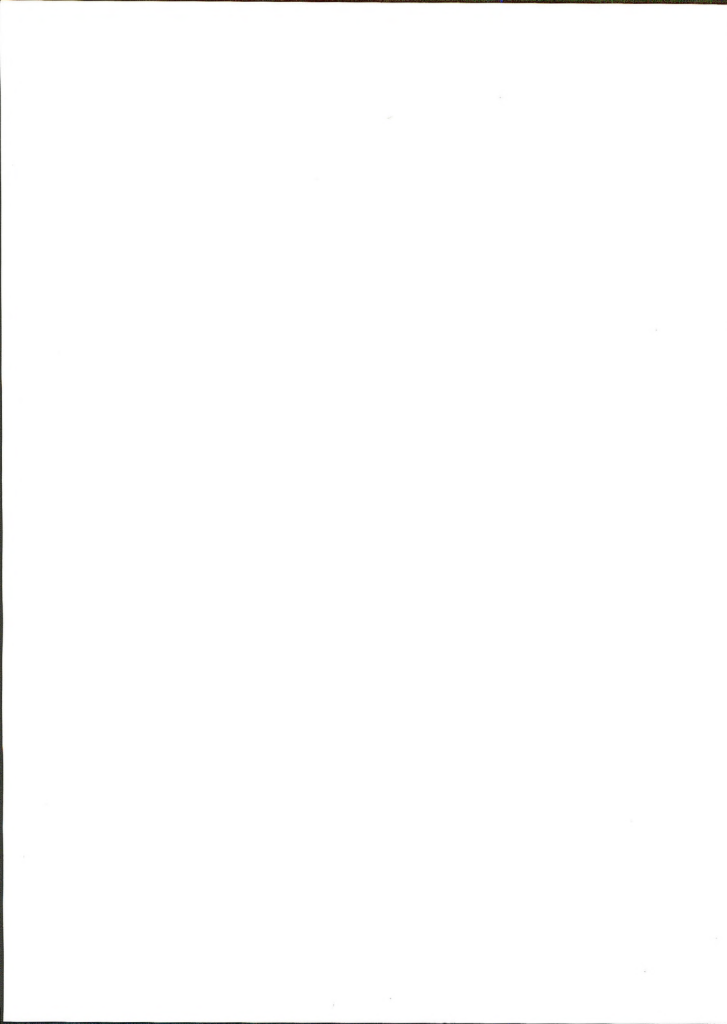
Fourteen comments were received concerning Unit 363.

Size: A comment noted the unit met acreage requirements.

Roads: A comment noted the road providing access to private land on the Gunnison River and Little Dominguez Creek. Neither road is included within the unit's boundaries. Another comment noted the absence of roads. A comment generally noted the presence of improved roads in the area. Another comment noted the presence of ways in the area and referred to the Big Dominguez Road.

A comment stated that the area contained maintained roads but did not specify locations. A field check revealed that the unit is primarily natural in character with all maintained roads outside the unit boundaries.

Naturalness: A comment specifically noted a few imprints but maintained the unit was primarily natural. Another comment generally noted the presence of many imprints in the area (none of which appear to be within the unit) and recommended the unit be dropped from further study. A comment noted the presence of stock reservoirs in the unit. Another comment noted the primarily natural character of the unit (see General Comments for specifics).



General Comments:

A comment noted the presence of possible vertebrate fossils within the unit.

Three comments generally recommended the unit for wilderness study.

One comment expressed concern for the restrictions wilderness designation might impose on future Gunnison River water projects. (The proposed Dominguez Project would inundate about 40 acres of the unit). A similar comment expressed concern that wilderness designation might restrict future mining of the deep-seated coal in the area (the unit is underlain by low-grade coal).

Another comment requested the unit be deleted from study based on the possible conflict between the Dominguez Project and wilderness concept.

These concerns will be addressed in the wilderness Study Phase if this unit is recommended for wilderness study.

A comment noted the presence of petroglyphs, fossilized dinosaur bones, unique geologic features, limited mining potential, abundant wildlife and recreational potential within the unit. It suggested a land exchange of non-public parcels adjacent to roads or to the Gunnison River.

A general comment was received stating concern regarding the possibility of Class I air designation of the area if the unit becomes wilderness. Air quality is a concern of the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review and is not considered at this time.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (47,467 acres), appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with human imprints substantially unnoticeable.

REFERENCE:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:

1031	Keith Creek
1032	Escalante Forks
1033	Good Point
0975	Triangle Mesa
0976	Dominguez

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1, SW-2

GENERAL LOCATION:

Northwest of the city of Delta and contiguous to the Grand Mesa National Forest proposed RARE II Kannah Creek wilderness. Also, the unit is contiguous with BLM, Grand Junction District Unit No. CO-070-103.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	22,041	Inventory No:	CO-030-370A
District:	Montrose	Area Name:	Kannah Creek Contiguous
		State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. The area is considered to have little mineral potential and no known patented mining claims have been found. Four grazing allotments cover the entire unit, and this constitutes the primary land use. Within the unit there are isolated range projects of stock reservoirs, check dams, diversion ditches, fences and associated ways. These are generally minor imprints with no evidence of recent maintenance. All lands within the unit are leased for exploration and development of oil and gas. Some hunting does occur; however, the emphasis is in the contiguous Grand Mesa National Forest. The vegetation is cactus/sage/grasslands; pinon-juniper forest; oak/cottonwood/box elder creeks; and sparsely-vegetated adobe mesas. Topography is varied from flat and open lowlands in about the southern half of the unit to hilly pinon-juniper forest of the northern third. The remainder consists of deeply eroded adobe mesas. All of the inventory unit consists of BLM public lands, while ownership outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

Approximately 4,713 acres have been added in the southwestern portion of the unit after a field check revealed that ways and range projects were minor imprints substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 11,289 acres have been added in the eastern portion of the unit after a field check revealed those BLM public lands to be natural and with few minor imprints of man.

Deletions:

Approximately 4 acres have been omitted to exclude a county-maintained road that parallels Wells Gulch. In Section 10, T. 14S., R. 97W., about 40 acres were excluded that had developed range projects of check dams, diversion ditches and contour furrowing in close proximity to the road.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments on size or roads. There were seven public comments on Unit 370A.

Naturalness: One comment states possible fossil vertebrates occur within the unit. Fossil resources are considered supplemental values in the intensive inventory phase and are further considered if the unit is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

One comment noted that there were maintained roads in the unit used for recreation and grazing management. A field check found that the ways in the unit were substantially unnoticeable. Other resource uses will be considered in the wilderness Study Phase if the unit is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area upon completion of the intensive inventory.

General Comments:

Several comments noted the presence of oil, gas, coal and other minerals. Some noted that exploration could be hindered due to lack of access if CO-030-370A is designated wilderness. If the unit becomes a Wilderness Study Area following recommendation based in the Intensive Inventory Phase, other resource uses will then be evaluated.

Two comments noted that wilderness qualities, as described in the 1964 Wilderness Act, were present in the unit. These comments recommended the unit for intensive inventory. Some of these wilderness values were verified by a BLM field check.

One comment was concerned that, in general, future BLM wilderness areas might be designated Class I air quality regions under the Federal Clean Air Act, and that such designation would interfere with oil shale development. These concerns will be considered during the Study Phase if the unit is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area following an intensive inventory.

INVENTORY UNIT NO. CO-030-370A Continued

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (22,041 acres), is contiguous to the Grand Mesa National Forest proposed RARE II Kannah Creek Wilderness, is contiguous to ELM, Grand Junction District Unit No. CO-070-103, contains few imprints of man, and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

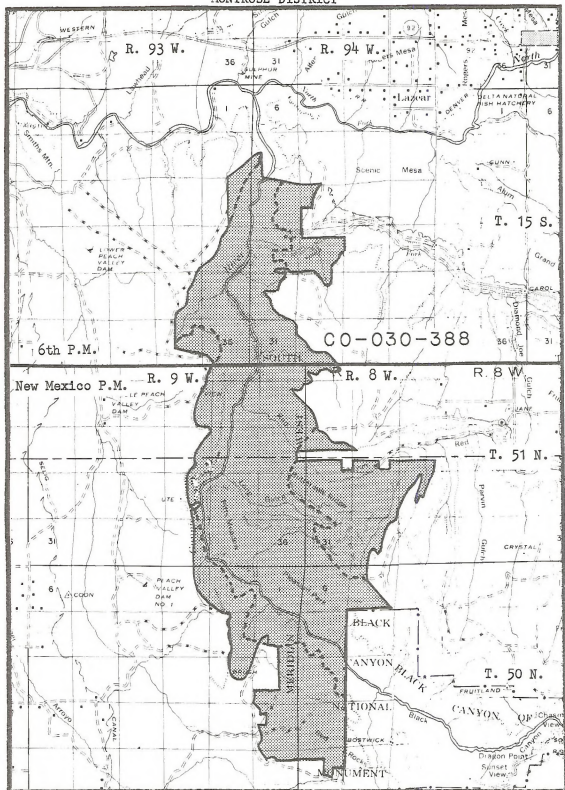
0976
0977

Indian Point
Dominguez
Point Creek
North Delta

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-2

NOTE: The map for this unit is located on page 192 with Grand Junction Inventory Unit CO-070-103.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
MONTROSE DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GENERAL LOCATION:

Ten miles east of Delta (Montrose-Delta Counties).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 22,280 acres
District: Montrose

Inventory No.: 00-030-388
Area Name: Black Canyon of the
Gunnison Contiguous
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. The area has little mineral potential and no known patented mining claims. The primary use of the unit is recreation, although large portions of the area are leased for grazing. Fishing is excellent along the Gunnison River. Hunting occurs on the rim and benchland areas. Vegetation is primarily pinon-juniper, sage and open brushland while topography is steep and rugged in the canyon and gently rolling on the mesa tops. All lands within the unit are public lands. The unit is contiguous to existing wilderness in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 6,080 acres of public lands administered by the BLM have been added to this unit as a result of a field check which revealed these areas are primarily natural with no major imprints of man. The boundary has, therefore, been drawn back to roads, private property, and major imprints of man in the following locations.

In the southern portion, 2,600 acres adjacent to existing wilderness in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument have been added.

In the western portion, two areas (1,040 acres and 280 acres) have been added.

In the northern portion, two areas (280 acres and 1,000 acres) have been added. The field check revealed a way along the Smith Fork to be impassable and returning to a natural condition.

In the eastern portion, two areas (240 acres and 2,640 acres) have been added. The field check revealed a way in Red Canyon returning to a natural condition and ways on the adjacent mesa, which are overgrown, returning to a natural condition.

Deletions:

The boundary has been adjusted to exclude small portions of roads and developed recreation sites on the west side of Gunnison Gorge. Approximately 14 acres at the Duncan Trailhead (Section 27, T. 51N., R. 9W.) and approximately 3 acres at the Chukar Trailhead (Section 12, T. 50N., R. 9W.) have been deleted.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Seven public comments have been received for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Contiguous Unit.

Size: One comment suggested a size figure of 32,840 acres.

Roads: A comment was submitted concerning Chukar, Duncan and Ute Roads. All three roads have been excluded from the unit boundaries.

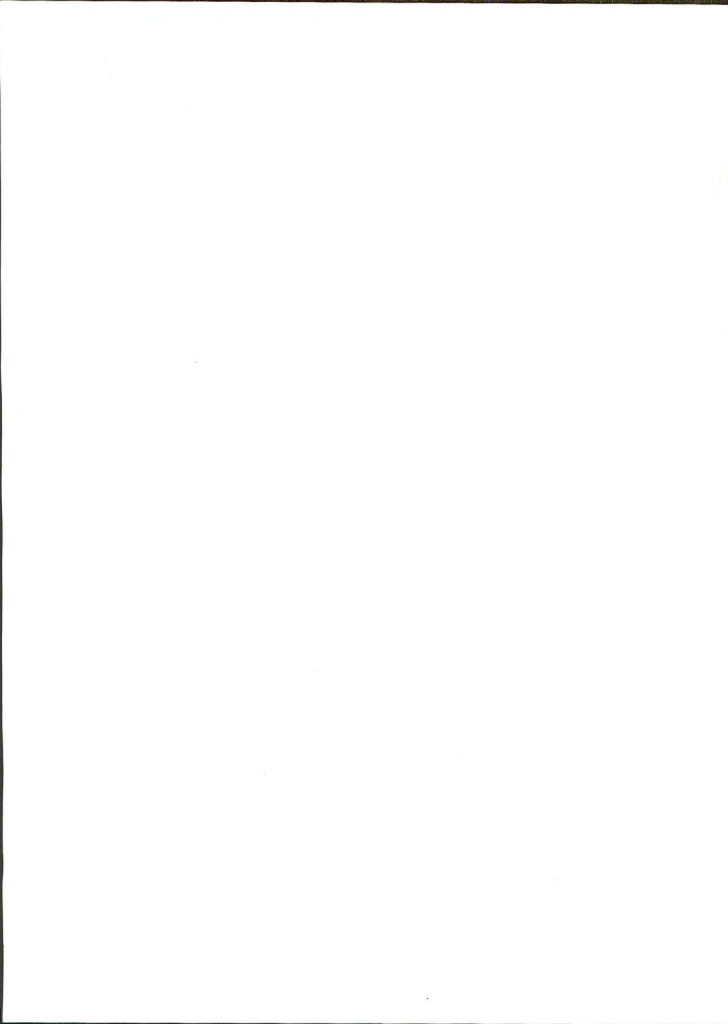
Naturalness: No comments specifically related to the naturalness of the area.

General Comments:

Five comments were received in support of designating Unit CO-030-388 as a Wilderness Study Area. Four were general comments stating the area meets criteria established by the Wilderness Act. The other specifically states the unit contains habitat for raptors and provides areas for solitude. Field study has confirmed these statements.

A corporation submitted a comment concerning oil shale and air quality designation. Although they did not state the area had actual oil shale in it, they were concerned with the air quality of the unit, due to mining operations in the immediate area.

Air quality redesignation to Class I is not automatic for Wilderness Areas, and is done solely by the state. BLM cannot change air quality designations.



INVENTORY UNIT CO-030-388 Continued

(Water Projects): The Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, Salt Lake City, Utah, requests the ELM delete lands from the study area in initial segregation to be accomplished in September, 1979. CO-030-388 includes dam sites or projects being considered by non-Federal parties. These concerns have been addressed in the environmental statement for the proposed Wild and Scenic River. If approved by Congress for National Wild River status, water projects would not be permitted in the initial wilderness inventory unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

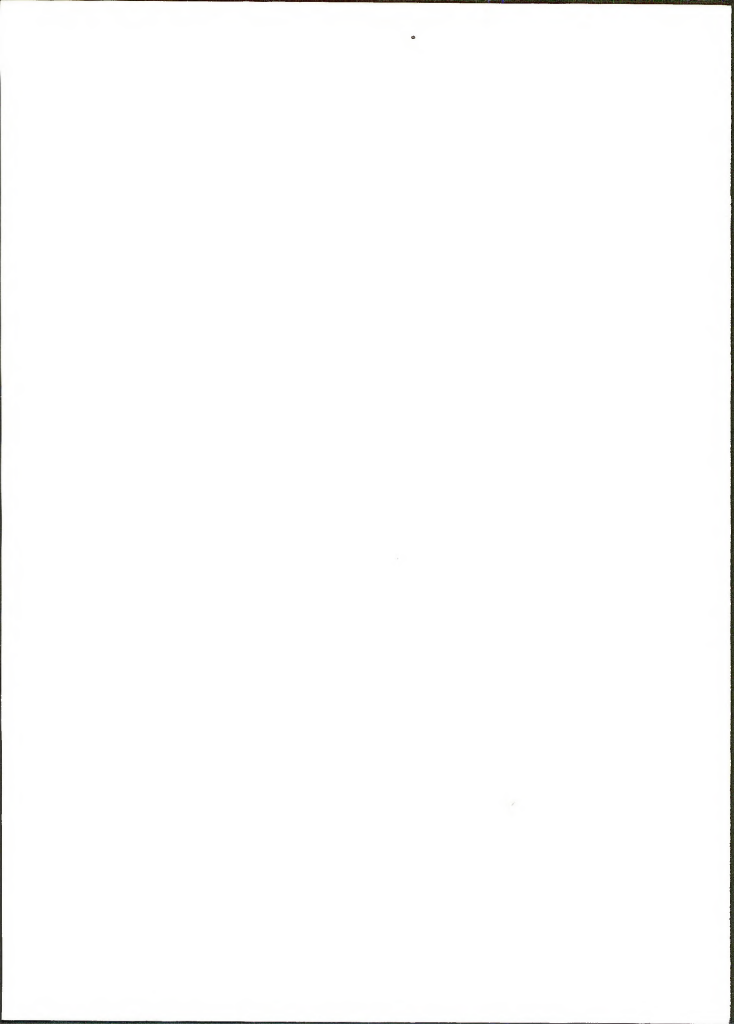
The unit is of sufficient size (22,280 acres). It contains a few imprints of man--primarily ways--which do not impair the naturalness of the area. It appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

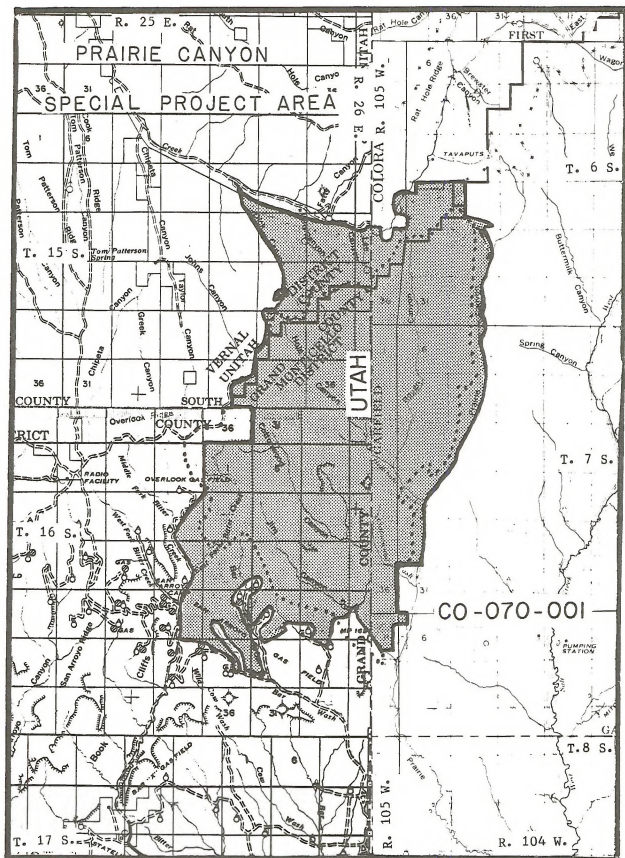
U.S.G.S. Topographic Quads:

Lazear
Olathe NW
Olathe
Red Rock Canyon
Black Ridge

Colorado Surface Management Quads: SW-2 and SW-3.



GRAND JUNCTION
(070)



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
Northwest of Grand Junction (Garfield County)

<u>UNIT IDENTIFICATION:</u>	Inventory No.: CO-070-001
Size: 10,200 acres	Area Name: Prairie Canyon
District: Grand Junction,	State: Colorado
Craig	

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The unit is part of a 27,900 acre unit that straddles the Utah-Colorado State line and extends into Utah. Topography consists of a series of northwest-southwest trending ridges and canyons. Vegetation is primarily pinon-juniper woodlands with sagebrush at the lower elevations. Mountain brush and some Douglas Fir occur at the higher elevations. Some hunting occurs in the unit. Oil and gas development is the major land use contiguous to the unit.

The unit was identified for an accelerated inventory because of a major conflict with oil and gas development. This special inventory was cited in Appendix C of BLM's "Draft Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Wilderness Study Areas."

The accelerated inventory was completed during the summer of '79 and results were announced on August 17, 1979 by the Utah State Director. Utah BLM took the lead on the accelerated review because a major part of the unit in Utah.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Additions:

Boundaries on the eastern side of the unit were moved down to the road or oil and gas well developments. The initial boundary was pulled away from these impacts and aligned along the ridges.

The boundary was also re-aligned on the northern part of the unit to be contiguous, private property on the edge of a road. The boundary was also drawn between two parcels of private property in close proximity.

Deletions:

The area south of the road up Jim Canyon was deleted because originally the route up Jim Canyon was considered to be a way.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

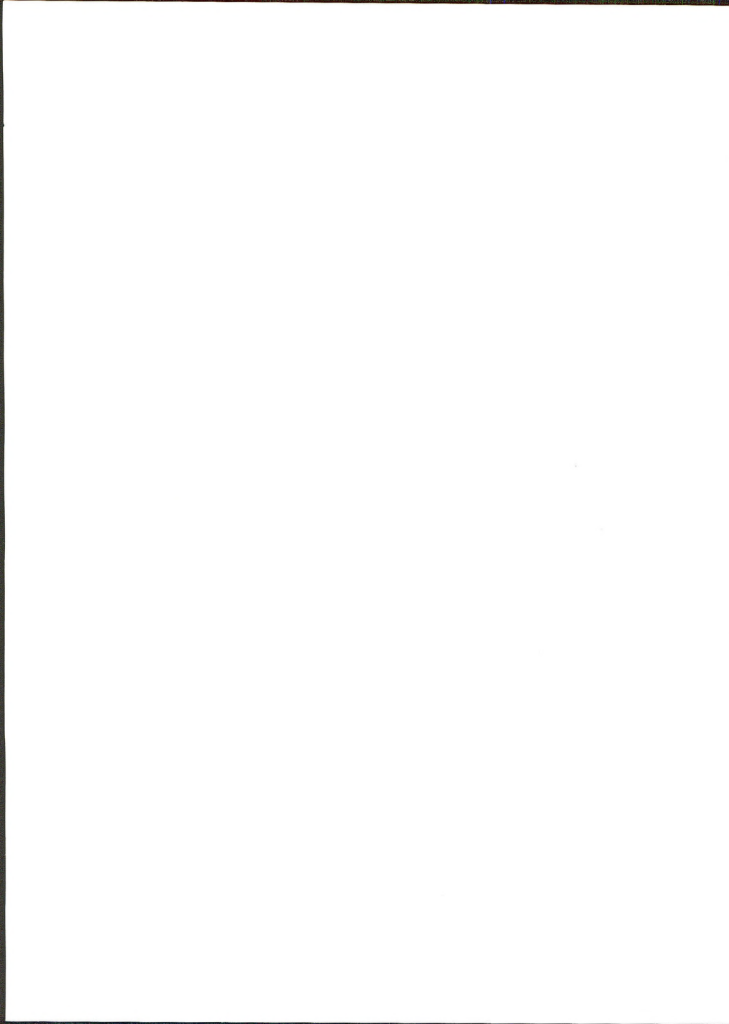
Size: None

Roads: None

Neutrality: One comment said the unit is not in a natural state because of gas wells in the general area (more are in the unit) and livestock developments within the unit. One person commented on the presence of natural bridges within the unit.

General Comments

Several letters were received opposing wilderness consideration for Prairie Canyon because of potential oil and gas development. Two letters specifically cited national energy policy as the need to develop Prairie Canyon oil and gas reserves. One industry comment said that the unit was part of a large oil and gas field known as the Douglas Arch. One comment received stated that the Prairie Canyon was a "grandfather use" area for oil and gas development. Several letters were received endorsing Prairie Canyon for designation as wilderness. Several people said they had hiked the canyons in the unit and found excellent day hiking opportunities for "isolation" were noted in Hell's Hole and Cottonwood Canyons.



Inventory No.: CO-070-001 (cont.)

One comment identified a potential conflict with shale development east of the unit because of air quality standards. One industry comment was that oil and gas development could be done in the unit for 40 to 50 years with rehabilitation being done in the next 10 years to reduce impacts to a minimum.

RATIONALE FOR NOT RECOMMENDING AS A WSA

The unit did not qualify as a wilderness study area because it lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Opportunities for solitude are typical of the Bookcliffs region and are not considered outstanding based on limitations of topographic and vegetative screening. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited by topography and vegetation and are not considered singularly or in combination to be outstanding. This decision is under public review for a 30 day public review that began August 17, 1979.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo No.: USGS Topographic Quad:

0628
0685

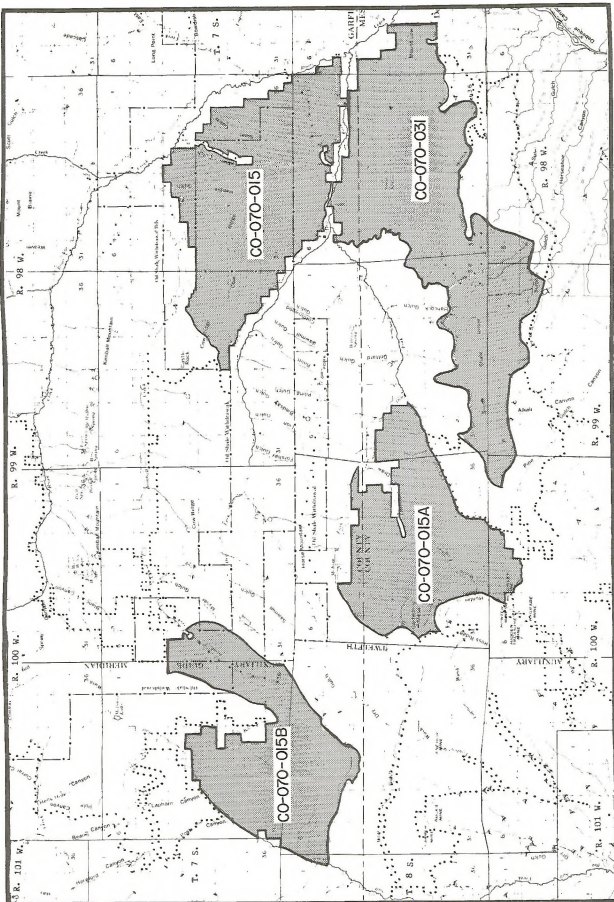
Rathole Ridge
Jim Canyon

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Quad: NW-19

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location:

This unit is located approximately 20 miles north of Grand Junction in Mesa County.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,500 acres

District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-015

Area Name: Coy Ridge

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Approximately one-half of the unit is covered by oil and gas leases, and the entire unit is under grazing permit. A large portion of the area is under oil shale withdrawal. No locatable mineral activity is known. Permanent improvements include: stock ponds, fences and ways. Uses, aside from grazing, are big game hunting and some ORV use. The unit consists of a major ridge with steeply sloping sides and the base of the slopes. Pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation on the lower slopes with Douglas fir and mountain brush species occurring in the higher elevations. There is one tract of private land consisting of 80 acres that is within the boundary, but it is excluded from wilderness review.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Additions:

None

Deletions:

In sections 13 and 14 T.7S., R.99W., 6th Principal Meridian, three parcels of land totaling about 40 acres were excluded from the unit because of their sale under the Unintentional Trespass Act of September 26, 1968, (82 Stat. 870; 43 USC 1431-1435). The inventory unit boundary was drawn without recognition of the existence of a situation involving lands suitable for and used for agriculture. The Notice of Sale and Right of First Refusal has been published and purchase price has been deposited.

In sections 9, 16, 21 and 22, T.7S., R.99W., 6th Principal Meridian, the western boundary was adjusted to show the corrected alignment of a road and a bench-cut way which is considered a major imprint of man. The western boundary, starting from the south, is drawn along a way that goes to The Saddle area and then follows a road that travels down the north slope to the boundary. The way is no longer passable, but contains numerous bench-cuts and is considered a major imprint of man. About 1/8 mile from where the way terminates a constructed, maintained and regularly used road traverses this portion of the unit. The western boundary was adjusted to eliminate roads, ways having significant impacts on naturalness, parcels of private property and developed springs. All of these were identified by public comments as having a major impact on the area. There were approximately 1,700 acres deleted from this section of the unit.

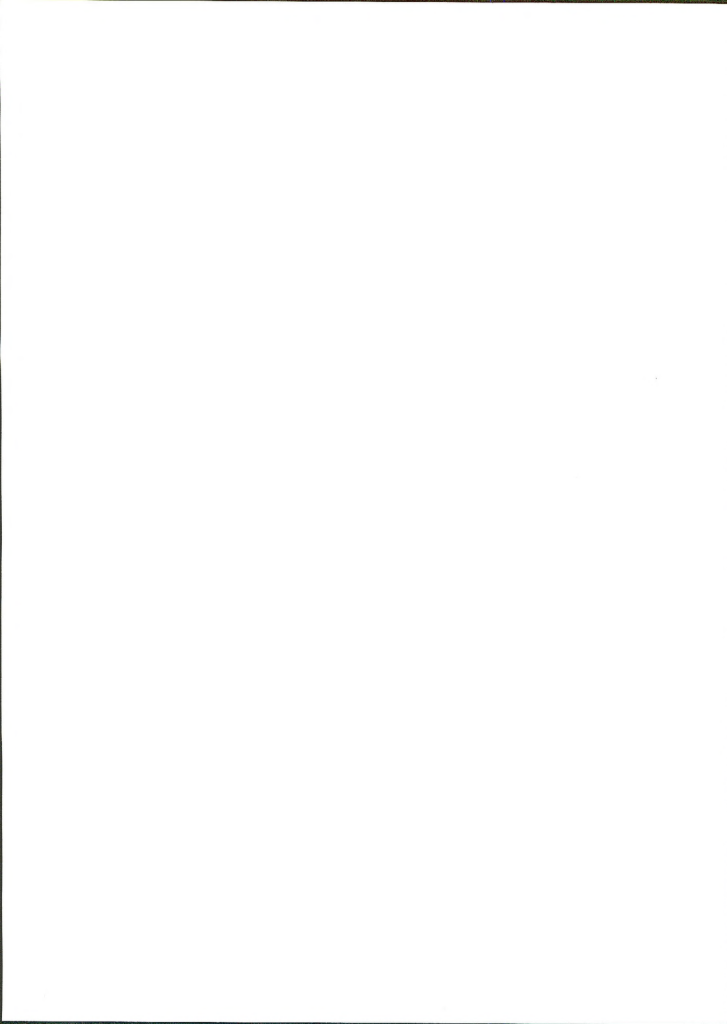
In the northeast portion of the unit, sections 22 and 27, T.7S., R.99W., 6th Principal Meridian, the boundary was altered to omit a road and a parcel of private property. A field check revealed that this road is maintained and is a major imprint of man. Approximately 180 acres were deleted from this section of the unit.

Near the southern boundary, sections 3, 9 and 10, T.7S., R.98W., 6th Principal Meridian, the boundary was altered to exclude a maintained and regularly used road. Approximately 70 acres were omitted from this section of the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Several comments address an interest in expanding the unit further west. The justification given is that the area west of the inventory unit is primarily natural and roadless.

Roads: Several comments state that there are roads that penetrate the area from all sides of the unit. Several people commented that the road up Gibler Gulch was indeed a road. Others commented on the series of roads that penetrate the unit from the north side, near Castle Rock and The Saddle. According to the comments, several of these were maintained by oil shale assessment work, for maintenance of a water pipeline and for checking cattle. One comment addressed the fact that additional roads, other than those previously mentioned exist in the southeast portion of the unit as well as several that penetrate the unit from the southern boundary. One comment said the entire unit can be inventoried from a vehicle and therefore is roaded and shouldn't qualify.



Inventory #: CO-070-015 (continued)
Area Name: Cow Ridge

Naturalness: Several comments said that unit is not natural as a result of jeep roads, timber activity, grazing, corrals, water tanks, water spring developments, pipelines, abandoned gas wells, hunting and reservoir development which all reduce the area's naturalness. Other comments said the unit was natural. Many of these impacts were excluded through boundary adjustment. Others are not considered major impacts on naturalness.

General Comments:

Several comments address the fact that adjacent landowners who hold grazing allotments need the land to make a living. One comment states that the unit overlies deep-seated coal. Several comments state that the majority of the area is under oil shale withdrawal, while another states that oil or gas and other minerals are located within the unit. The mineral potential was identified as being in conflict with wilderness designation of the unit. They will be considered in the study phase. One comment says that there is not any more need for wilderness. A paleontologist stated that there are fossil vertebrates in the area. Several comments said that there are several mining claims within the area as well as parcels of private land. One comment addressed the units conflict with potential utility corridors while one stated a potential conflict with oil shale development because of air quality standards. One letter received said the unit had outstanding opportunities for solitude while another said the unit did not have such opportunities.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (17,500 acres) and only minor imprints of man seem to be present. Public comments addressing roads in the Castle Rock and The Saddle area prompted a field check. This revealed that a portion of these were maintained and used regularly. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude these roads. A field check was also conducted to determine the status of the Giber Gulch road. It was found to be a road part of the way with the remainder of it containing several significant roadcuts, which were considered a major imprint of man. Most of this road and associated benchcuts were omitted from the unit by making boundary changes. Along the southern portion of the boundary several "roads" were field checked and all were evaluated to be ways except for one for which a boundary adjustment was made.

In addressing the numerous public comments concerning a westward expansion of this unit, field checks were made of the western boundary. It was found that the western boundary could not be extended any further west, but rather, it had to be drawn in to show the corrected alignment of a bench-cut way considered to be a major imprint, and a road identified by public comment. However, the public comments addressed a larger portion of the original CO-070-015 that lies to the west of the Cow Ridge unit. Field checks revealed that two portions of this western and southwestern part of CO-070-015 possesses wilderness characteristics. These will be referred to as CO-070-015A, Hunter Canyon, and CO-070-015B, Garvey Canyon. The Hunter Canyon and Garvey Canyon units are considered separate intensive units and are addressed in two separate reports.

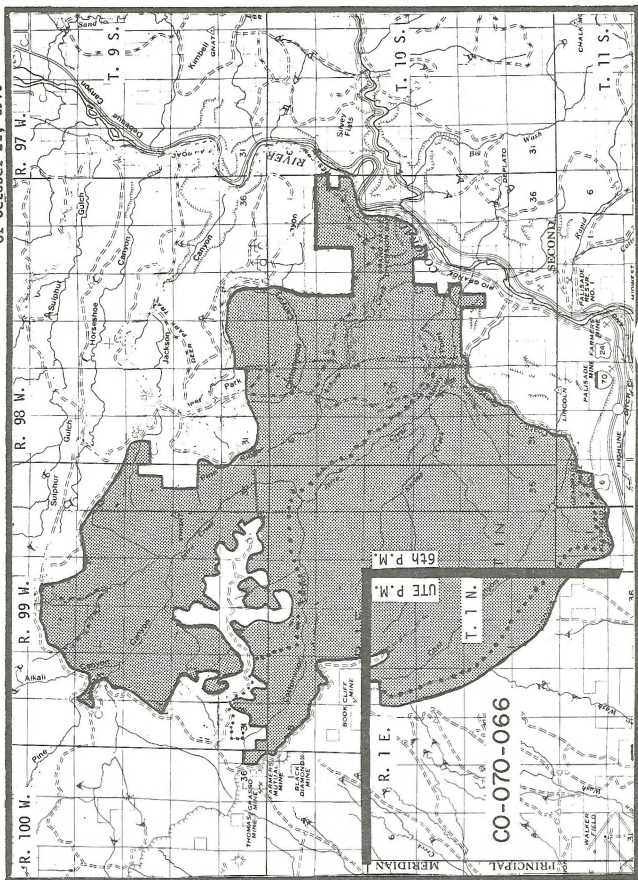
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic
0689	Quad:
0690	Middle Dry Fork
0691	The Saddle
0748	Long Point
	Wagon Track Ridge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-19, NW-20

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles



CO-070-066

General Location:
Northeast of Grand Junction (Mesa County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 43,800 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-066
Area Name: Little Bookcliff
Wildhorse Area
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements, rights-of-way, or mining claims exist in the unit. Oil and gas leases have been issued for most of the area, and two coal leases are located in the southern portion. Permanent improvements include fences, several springs and stock reservoirs. The dominant use of these lands is for the management of wild horses. Some grazing occurs in the northern sections. Other human use includes recreation. Some archeological values have been identified. The area is characterized by numerous deep canyons interspersed with rugged mesas, ridges and small drainages. Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush are the dominant vegetation types. The unit is bounded by BLM lands on all sides except the south where there is some private land.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 22,400 acres were added to the northern side of the unit. This addition's boundary was drawn to exclude major man-made modifications and private properties. These additions include portions of T.9S., R.97-99W; and parts of T.10S., R.98 and 99W of the 6th Principle Meridian.

A second addition to the southern portion of the unit includes lands from section 3, T.1N., R.1E. of the Ute P.M. to the southeast ending at the powerline in section 6, T.10S., R.99W. This boundary extends down to the base of the Bookcliffs, where ORV tracks create major imprints on the naturalness. This addition is 1,700 acres.

Deletion:

The boundary was adjusted in section 31, T.9S., R.99W. of the 6th P.M. to exclude approximately 200 acres after a field check revealed some vegetative manipulation in this area.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: One comment stated that roads and fences exist within the area. Another comment described a new, expanded boundary to the unit, which was delineated by roads which they had field checked.

Naturalness: One comment was submitted explaining the impact on the naturalness from the adjacent Cameo Power Plant. Another comment said that the unit meets the naturalness criteria.

General Comments:

A few comments were submitted advocating the termination of any further development within the area that may negatively affect naturalness. And, one comment objected to the area becoming a wilderness because it would interfere with access into some of the unit's coal reserves. One comment, submitted by a utility company, was concerned with the negative effects a wilderness designation would have on their adjacent operation. Their power plant is just outside the unit boundary. They, and one other interest were concerned with the change of air quality classification that might be associated with a wilderness designation. The utility company went on to say that they recommend the following: a) that the eastern boundary be moved back away from the powerline forming the eastern boundary, b) that the Coal Canyon power line and access road be designated a utility corridor and c) that further evaluation be made of oil and gas potential in the area. A comment based on field work stated that the unit should be expanded northward from the boundary outlined in the Situation Evaluation. This statement also mentioned that the northeast portion of the unit not recommended for intensive inventory be looked at to determine if it meets the roadless and natural criteria.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

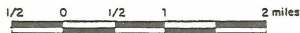
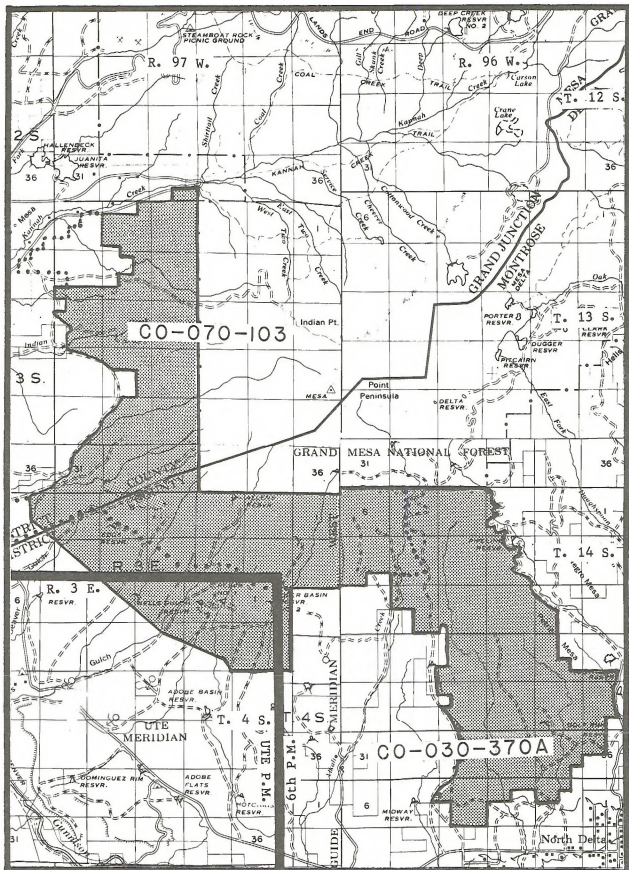
The public comments prompted field checks of the unit. It was found that no roads, according to FLPLMA definition, exist within the unit. Several fences do exist, however. After the initial mapwork was rechecked, it was found that the utility line forms the eastern boundary of the unit. The unit represents an excellent example of the pinyon-juniper ecosystem found in the western Colorado Plateau, providing a prime habitat for wild horses. Only minor imprints of man are found within the boundaries, warranting a more intensive study.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

Wagon Track Ridge
Corcoran Peak, Winter
Flats
Round Mountain, Cameo

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-25, NW-26



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

This unit is located 15 miles southeast of Grand Junction

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,500 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-103
Area Name: Kannah Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Several rights-of-way are located in the unit. Two ditches run through the central portion. Most of the unit is authorized for grazing and is under oil and gas lease. No mineral activity exists within the unit. Permanent improvements include two fence enclosures, several small reservoirs and a few ways. Grazing and water transportation are the primary uses. Hunting is popular in the area. Also according to the Whitewater Management Framework Plan, Recommendation R12.2, Road segments 7254B and 7253B entering the unit in Section 18, T.13S, R.97W of the 6th P.M., have been designated open to off-road vehicle use. Together they form a 7 mile trail, beginning at Highway 50 (out of the inventory unit) and paralleling Indian Creek up to the Grand Mesa National Forest Service Boundary. Supplemental values in this unit include archeological sites and a winter range of mule deer and elk. Pinon and juniper woodland characterize the vegetation in the upper elevations, with shrubs and grasses in the lower areas. The eastern portion of the unit is characterized by mountainous slopes cut by periodic drainages, while the western half is gently rolling grassland dotted with adobe-like mesas and hills. The unit forms part of the west aspect of the Grand Mesa and adjoins the USFS RARE II area 2195, which has been recommended to Congress for wilderness designation. Kannah Creek, CO-070-103 is also contiguous to Kannah Creek CO-030-370A in the Montrose District. It is also being recommended for intensive study. The northern and western boundaries are formed by roads and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 2,800 acres have been added to the unit after a field check revealed this area to be natural. The addition includes 2,800 acres to the west from Section 7, T. 13 S., R. 97 W. to Section 5, T. 14 S., R. 98 W. both of the Sixth Principle Meridian.

Deletions:

In Sections 6, 7, and 8, T. 13 S., R. 97 W. of the Sixth Principle Meridian, approximately 400 acres were deleted because of a misinterpretation of private property boundaries.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

No specific comments on size, roadlessness, or naturalness were submitted on this unit.

General Comments:

One comment was received supporting this unit for wilderness. Industry also identified a potential conflict with air quality on this unit because of a potential shale plant located 40 miles away. One comment was received expressing concern over access to water rights in the unit. Another comment said that there are oil, gas, and coal reserves in the unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is of sufficient size and has retained significant attributes of naturalness. Contiguity with a potential USFS wilderness area could enhance the possible wilderness acreage.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

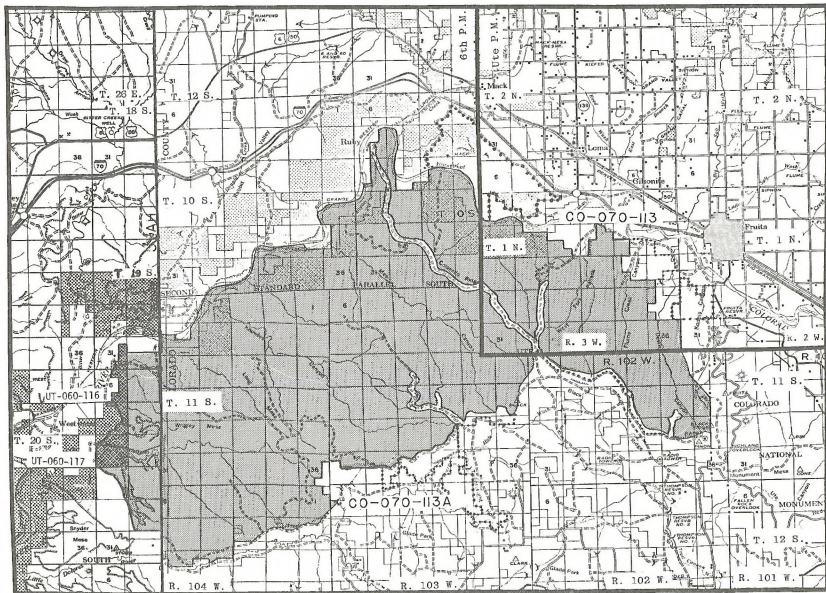
0919

Juniata Reservoir
Indian Point
Point Creek
Dominquez

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-2, NW-26



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location:

The unit is located approximately 10 miles west of Grand Junction, and 2 miles southwest of Fruita.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size:	CO-070-113	20,400 acres	Inventory No.:	CO-070-113
District:	Grand Junction		Area Name:	Black Ridge Canyons
			State:	Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements or rights-of-way are located within the unit. None of the area is under oil and gas lease. Inactive uranium and vanadium mining claims exist in the southeastern part of the unit. Some assessment work is currently being done on a set of claims near Devils Canyon. Permanent improvements include stock reservoirs, fences, two tarpaper shacks, and several unimproved ways. Grazing is the primary land use with river rafting, and scenic viewing of unique natural features also occurring in the unit. The unit is a highly dissected plateau with four major canyons descending almost 2,000 feet to the Colorado River. Vegetation on the mesas is characterized by pinyon-juniper woodlands interspersed with sagebrush clearings. Riparian vegetation as well as grassy meadows occur in the canyon bottoms. The unit borders Colorado National Monument on the east. The western boundary is a road which separates this unit from area CO-070-113A. A mixture of public and private lands form the north and south boundaries.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Additions:

None

Deletions:

The presence of a road running through the center of unit CO-070-113 described in the Situation Evaluation has necessitated the diversion of CO-070-113 into two separate units. The unit to the west of this road is henceforth designated as unit CO-070-113A and totals 51,200 acres. This road starts in the southeastern corner of the unit in Section 26 and passes through Sections 27, 22, 16-18, T.11S., R.102W., of the 6th Principle Meridian into Sections 32, 29, 20, 31, and 30, T.1N., R.3W. of the Ute Principle Meridian. From this point the road goes through Sections 34, 33, 28, 29, 18, 19, 18 and terminates in Section 7, all in T.10S., R.103W. of the 6th Principle Meridian. The acreage deleted from CO-070-113 as a result of excluding this road is approximately 600 acres.

Approximately 3,500 acres of land north of the Colorado River have been deleted due to the presence of numerous ways, a communication tower, and a quarry which reduces the overall naturalness of this area. This change occurs in sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, T.10S., R.103W. of the 6th Principle Meridian; section 31, T.2N., R.3W. and sections 4-8, T.1N., R.3W. of the Ute Principle Meridian.

Approximately 1,400 acres in sections 13, 14, 24, T.1N., R.3W., and sections 19, 31, T.1N., R.2W. of the Ute Principle Meridian were deleted since goosenecks less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide connect these lands to the main body of the unit.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: A couple comments state that several maintained roads occur in the area for the purposes of cattle grazing. These include portions of the Old Ute Indian Trail and the road which separates CO-070-113 from CO-070-113A. Several other comments stated that no roads occur in the unit.

Naturalness: Several comments stated that the area was very natural. Another comment mentioned that the presence of several man-made modifications within the unit does not effect the overall naturalness of the unit.

General Comments:

One comment stated the unit is located on an outcrop of a coal-bearing basin and that wilderness designation would prevent access to this coal reserve. Other comments mentioned that this area was ideally suited for wilderness designation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

CO-070-113 is of sufficient size (20,400 acres). The unit contains relatively few imprints of man and is considered to display outstanding naturalness which is exemplified in its deep canyons, scenic arches, and beautiful rock formations. Public comment in conjunction with field checks revealed the presence of several roads, all of which have been excluded from the boundaries of the unit. One road divides the unit into two pieces, CO-070-113 and CO-070-113A.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

801

Mack

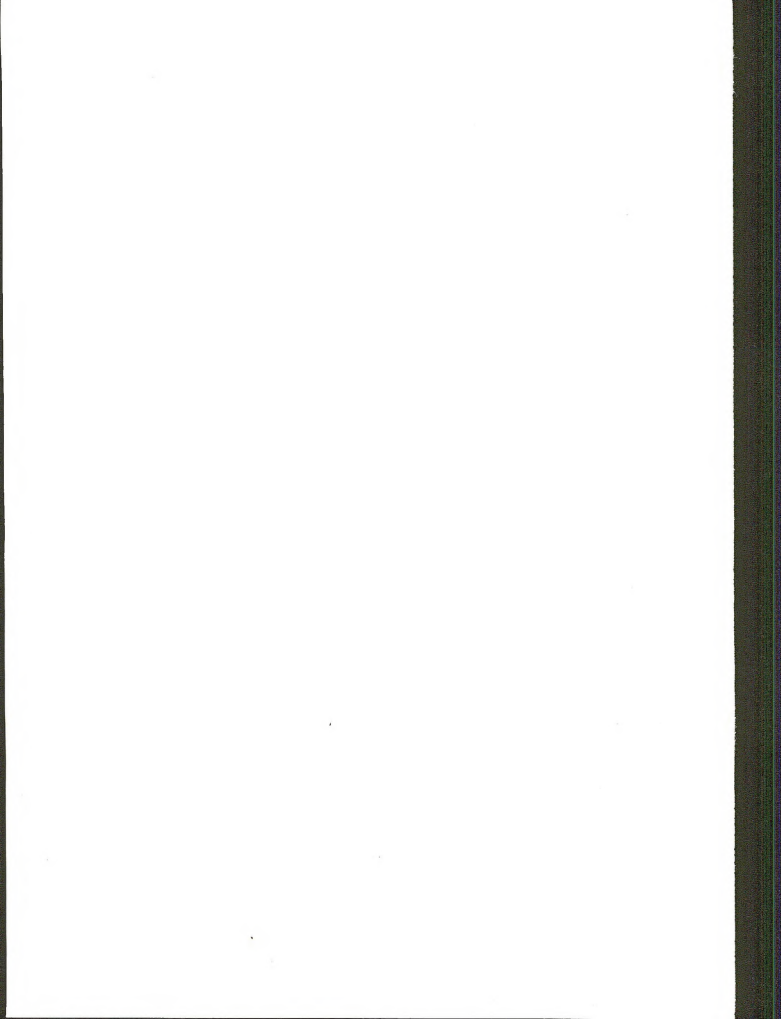
0858

Fruita

Battleship Rock

Colorado National Monument

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-25



General Location:

The unit is located approximately 20 miles west of Grand Junction and 10 miles west of Fruita.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 49,200 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-113A
Area Name: Black Ridge Canyons
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements or rights-of-way are located within the unit. None of the area is under oil and gas lease. No known mining claims have been found. All of the area is under grazing permit. Permanent improvements include several stock reservoirs, some short fences, two old rock quarry sites, and several unmaintained ways. At the present time grazing is the primary land use with a great deal of river rafting also occurring on the Colorado River. Some hiking does occur in the canyons off of the Colorado River and the area is also used for hunting during the fall. The unit consists of a high plateau draining northward into the Colorado River. Four major canyons dissect the area. Vegetation of the mesa is characterized by pinyon-juniper woodlands interspersed with small sagebrush flats. Riparian vegetation, grassy meadows, and scattered pinyon-juniper occur in the canyon bottoms. A road dividing this unit from CO-070-113 forms the eastern boundary. Private and public lands make up the north and south boundary. The Utah-Colorado state line is the western limit of the unit. Two Utah BLM intensive inventory units adjoin the western boundary of the unit (UT-060-116 and UT-060-117).

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Unit CO-070-113 has been divided into two separate areas due to the presence of a road which runs through the center of the unit. The area to the west of this road is unit CO-070-113A and should be considered a separate unit from CO-070-113.

Additions:

None

Deletions:

Approximately 2,000 acres have been deleted on the south side of unit CO-070-113A due to the presence of a road which separates these lands from the main body of CO-070-113A. This road starts in Section 24 and ends in Section 32, T.11S. R.103W, of the 6th Principle Meridian. A side road branches off of this road in Sections 27, 21, 22, and 16 of the same township and range.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: A comment stated that a maintained road exists on the mesa between Mee and Knowles Canyon. This road is now excluded from the unit.
Naturalness: Several comments stated that the area was very natural and contained many unique geologic features such as spires and natural bridges.

General Comments:

Several comments stated that the area was ideally suited for wilderness designation due to its outstanding geology and scenic beauty. A comment stated that the unit is located on an outcrop of a coal-bearing basin and that wilderness designation would prevent access to the coal reserve.

RAISONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (49,200 acres). The area is primarily natural with relatively few imprints of man existing within the unit. Significant rock formations occur throughout the area.

REFERENCES:

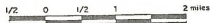
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

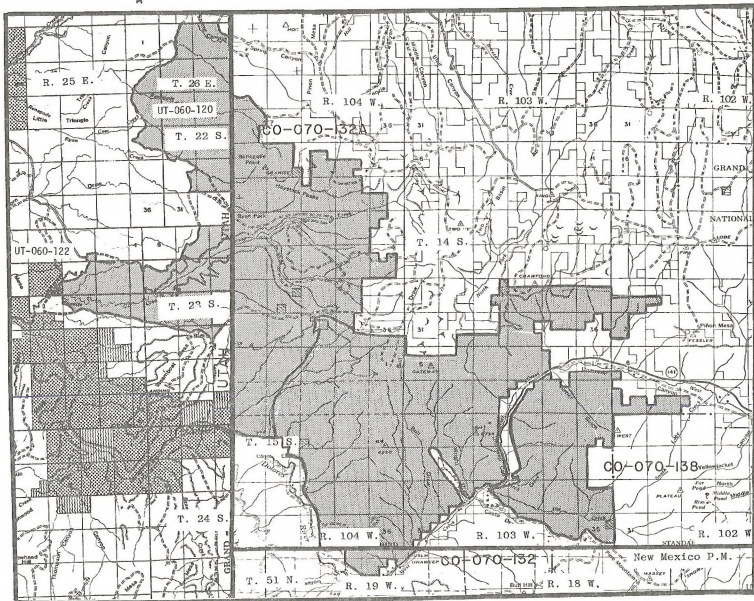
0799
0800
0856

0858
0801

Bitter Creek Well
Ruby Canyon
Westwater 4SE
Sieser Creek
Battleship Rock
Mack



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location:
North of Gateway (Mesa County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION
Size: 27,700 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-132
Area Name: The Palisade
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. Approximately 80% of this unit has been leased for oil and gas, and numerous mining claims are located within the unit. An inactive uranium operation is found on the west side of the Palisade. Permanent improvements include six reservoirs, several ways, some fences on the periphery, three pullouts, an old sawmill and a trash dump. Mineral exploration is believed to be sharply on the increase. Most human activity is associated with livestock operations, ORV use and hunting. The area is characterized by vertical cliffs, deep, rugged canyons, and rolling desert valley bottoms. A varied vegetation characterizes the unit; the only black bush, *Coleogyne ramosissima*, to be found in the district (and perhaps in the state) is found in large concentrations on both sides of the Palisade. Private lands are on the south and northeast. Colorado BLM unit CO-070-132A (recommended for intensive inventory) is contiguous to the northwest.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: The State of Colorado expressed concern the unit included county roads. However, no roads exist in the unit. One comment addressed the road that forms the western boundary of the unit. This information stated that this road was initially constructed and routinely maintained.

Naturalness: One comment was made stating that the area was unimpacted and provided an excellent winter habitat for various wildlife.

General Comments:

One general comment was made regarding the danger of "locked up" energy resources should the Palisade become a wilderness area. Comment was received stating the unit had potential for oil and gas as well as uranium. Air quality conflicts were also identified for this unit because of a potential shale plant located 54 miles to the northeast.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The Palisade area has previously been identified as a Wildland Study Area and was recommended in the Whitewater MFP to be managed as such until a wilderness suitability determination and decision could be made. Most of the permanent improvements have occurred on the unit's periphery, resulting in very little impact on the area's naturalness.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: USGS Topographic Quad:

0913, 0970
0971
1028

Coates Creek
Two V Basin
Gateway
Mt. Naas 4 NE
Fish Creek

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Colo Quad: SW-1

General Location:

This unit is located approximately 33 miles southwest of Grand Junction and is located in Mesa County. It is contiguous with initial inventory CO-070-132A, Palisade.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Size: 19,000 acres

Inventory #: CO-070-132A

Area Name: Granite Creek

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease, but no developments are known to exist. It is believed that increased uranium exploration activities may be occurring in the southern portion of the unit, and numerous mining claims probably are located within the area. No easements have been issued. The unit contains three grazing allotments, constituting the primary land use. Other human activity includes ORV use and hunting. The unit generally represents the pinyon-juniper woodland type; the topography varies from rugged, granite cliffs around Renegade Point to rolling, "badland" type terrain in the southern portion. Contiguous to the west is the State of Utah; the BLM Moab District has identified a contiguous roadless area of over 5,000 acres adjoining Granite Creek Canyon.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

None

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: The State of Colorado expressed concern that the unit included county roads. However, no roads exist in the unit. One comment stated that one "road" traversing through the bottom of Granite Creek Canyon and another traveling east/west across Lost Horse Basin have both been maintained by seismologists last year. Another comment states that this same road traversing Lost Horse Basin is not regularly maintained. The latter comment states that numerous slides exist on that "road."

Naturalness: One comment addresses naturalness. It is stated that there are interesting rock formations, goosenecks, grottoes, springs, waterfalls, scenic vistas and that the area is secluded and isolated. Bald eagles, horned owls and signs of mountain lion were reported to be observed.

General Comments:

Comment was received stating the unit had potential for oil and gas as well as uranium. Air quality conflicts were also identified for this unit because of a potential shale plant located 55 miles to the northeast.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (19,000 acres) and appears to contain few imprints of man. The public comments addressing the "roads" that exist within the area prompted a field check. The field check was cursory and additional examination of the entire length is needed. However, the partial field check revealed that this "road" was not maintained and does not receive regular and continuous use and is a way. Overall, the unit is natural. No boundary changes have been made as a result of public comment.

REFERENCES:

0913, 0970
0971

USGS Topographic Quad:
Coates Creek
Two V Basin

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1 NW-25

General Location:

The unit is located northeast of Gateway, Colorado.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,900 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-138

Area Name: West Unsweep

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS

While no easements exist, several mining claims and oil and gas leases are located on the unit. The entire area is under grazing authorization. Permanent improvements include two historic cabins, a small airstrip and a 2½ mile 3-strand barbed wire fence. Grazing is the dominant use, with hunting and ORV use also important; physical access is very difficult, however. The unit forms part of the north-west flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The southern two-thirds of the area is pinyon-juniper woodland, while the remainder is mountain shrub. The area adjoins BLM to the south, and Uncompahgre National Forest to the west. The USFS land was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II process.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

None

Deletions:

Approximately 200 acres have been omitted to exclude a maintained road in the extreme southwestern corner of the unit: Section 28, T.15S., R.103W. of the 6th Principle Meridian.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roads: The State of Colorado said there was county roads in the units. The unit is roadless.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Air quality conflicts were identified, as related to a possible oil shale plant located 57 miles away. Another identified conflict was uranium potential. Another comment said minerals should be considered during the inventory phase.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area is very natural without roads penetrating its boundary, and man's imprint on the landscape is negligible.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

0971

Fish Creek

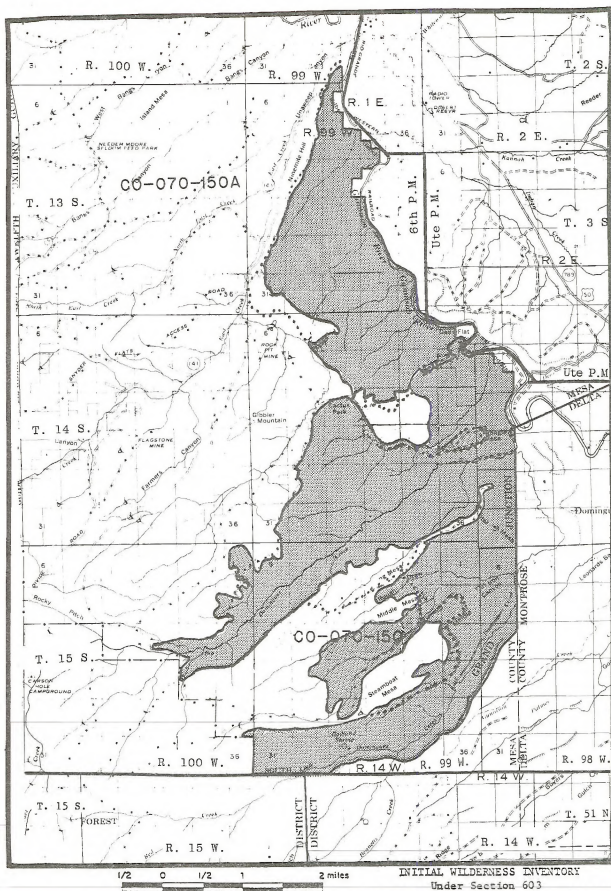
1028

Two V Basin

Pine Mountain

Gateway

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1



General Location:

About 17 miles southeast of Grand Junction and approximately 18 miles northwest of Delta within Mesa and Delta Counties.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 33,600 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory No.: CO-070-150
Area Name: Dominguez Canyons
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Several Federal power site withdrawals occur along the Gunnison River. No easements or right-of-ways are located in the unit. Some uranium and hard rock mineral claims exist within the unit, however, no oil and gas leases are present. Permanent improvements include several unmaintained ways, some short fence lines, springs developments, stock reservoirs, a couple of old cabins, several prospect pits, and an abandoned mine. Grazing is the primary land use with the entire unit under grazing permit. Picnicking and swimming in the many pools in Dominguez Canyon are also popular uses of the area. Numerous archeological sites exist throughout the unit. The unit typifies the deep red-rock canyons and high mesas characteristic of the semi-arid canyon country of the Colorado plateau physiographic region. The mesa tops generally represent the pinyon-juniper woodland type, while the lower stretches of the canyons exhibit a fine example of the cottonwood-willow riparian environment. Contiguous to the southwest is the Black Point USFS RARE II area (2-244) which was not selected for the wilderness. Colorado BLM unit CO-030-363 adjoins the eastern boundary of the unit.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Additions:

Approximately 3,200 acres have been added as a result of field checks which more closely defined the boundaries of chainings. These additions are located in portions of Sections 2, 3, 10-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26-28, T.15S., R.99W. of the 6th Principal Meridian.

Approximately 600 acres were added in portions of sections 22-24, T.14S., R.99W., and part of section 19, T.14S., R.98W. of the 6th Principal Meridian since field checks showed that the route to Triangle Mesa was an unmaintained way and not a road as previously thought.

Approximately 400 acres were added in parts of Section 1 and 12, T.15S., R.100W. of the 6th Principal Meridian as a result of field checks which more accurately defined the boundary chainings.

Deletions:

Approximately 200 acres were deleted in section 6, T.15S., R.99W. and section 12, T.15S., R.100W. of the 6th Principal Meridian due to field checks, which defined more accurately the boundaries of chainings.

Approximately 1,100 acres were deleted from Sections 3, 4, 8 and 9, T.15S., R.99W., of the 6th Principal Meridian since these lands have been chained.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: Several comments stated that roads exist along the Gunnison River and that there is a road going part way up Big Dominguez Canyon. Another comment mentioned that the area does not include any roads. Naturalness: Some comments generally stated the area was impacted by man along the area near the Gunnison River. A few responses mentioned the unit was extremely overgrazed. Several other comments said that it was very natural.

General Comments:

Several comments mentioned that the unit should not be studied any further due to a conflict between the proposed Dominguez Dam Project and possible wilderness designation. One comment said that the area is located on an outcrop of coal and that wilderness designation would prohibit the development of this resource. A paleontologist stated the area contained fossil vertebrates.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

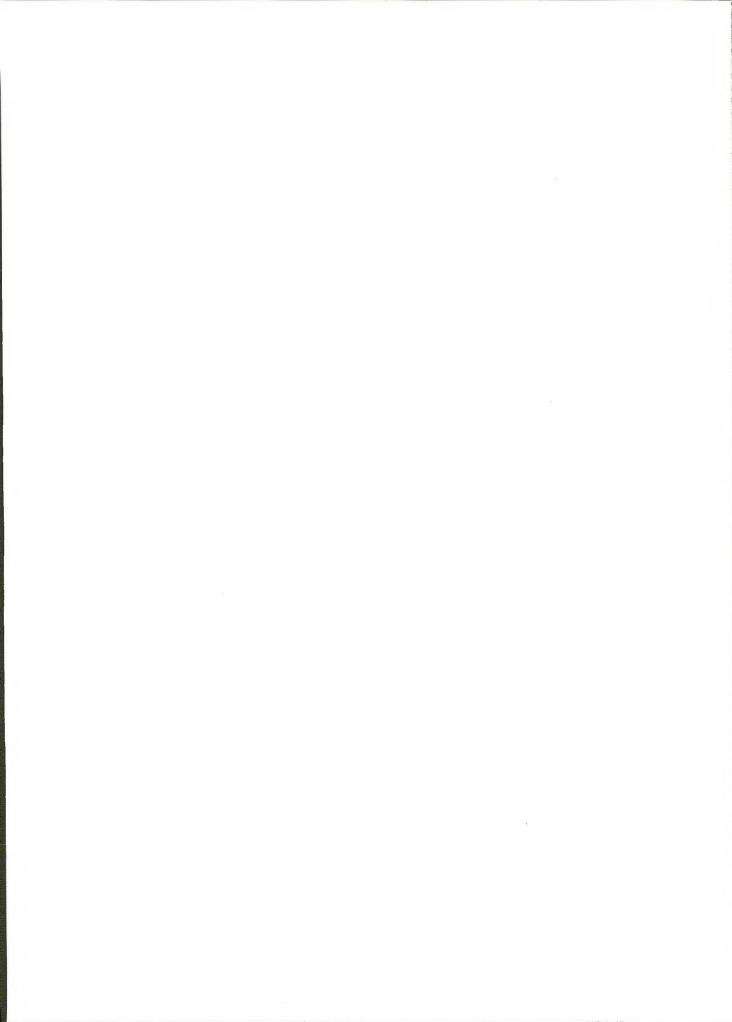
The unit is of sufficient size (33,600 acres). Overall, the unit is primarily natural with few significant imprints of man occurring within the unit boundary. No roads exist within the adjusted boundary. The Dominguez Canyon area has been recommended in previous planning efforts to be managed as a wildland study area until a wilderness suitability determination and decision can be completed.

REFERENCES:

0974
0917
1031
1032

Jacks Canyon
Triangle Mesa
Keith Creek
Escalante Forks

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1, SW-2



General Location:

This unit is located approximately 12 miles southeast of Grand Junction. It is contiguous with initial inventory unit CO-070-150, Dominguez Canyons.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,600 acres

District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-150A

Area Name: Gunnison River

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist within the unit. Several mining claims exist within the unit, however, no assessment work has been done. Grazing occurs throughout the unit. In connection with this primary land use there are six stock reservoirs, about 3/4 mile of fence line and several ways. Other uses of the unit include rafting, fishing and rock collecting. The characteristic vegetation is pinyon-juniper in the western half and sagebrush in the eastern half. Rolling hills dissected by numerous intermittent streams are in sharp contrast to the eastern half of the unit which is rugged and rocky. Redrock canyons and flat floodplains occur near the Gunnison River. All lands within the unit boundaries are public lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

None

Deletions:

Approximately 300 acres were omitted on the western boundary to exclude a telephone/telegraph line and communication site. These boundary adjustments were made in Section 31, T.12S., R.99W.; Sections 4, 5, 8, 15 and 30 of T.13S., R.99W. of the 6th Principle Meridian.

Approximately 800 acres were omitted to exclude a road that traverses the southwest corner of the unit. A field check revealed that this "way" was in actuality a "road", which was maintained and receives regular and continuous use. This road travels across Sections 30, 31 and 32 of T.13S., R.99W. and Sections 4 and 5 of T.14S., R.99W. of the 6th Principle Meridian.

Approximately 19 acres were excluded to show the corrected alignment of a boundary road. A field check revealed that this boundary road was plotted incorrectly for the initial inventory. The road goes from Cactus Park to Dad's Flat and forms a large portion of the southern boundary. The road travels across sections 14, 15 and 16 of T.14S., R.99W. of the 6th Principle Meridian.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None

Roads: One comment stated that there are improved roads within the unit and another states that there are roads open to the public.

Naturalness: One comment mentions that there are farms, ranches, gravel pits and livestock grazing rights that exist west and south of the Gunnison River.

General Comments:

There is some concern over the fact that the unit overlies coal reserves. One coal company addressed this concern. Several comments were received which address concern over the Dominguez Dam Project and the adverse impacts a wilderness designation would have on the eventual completion of the dam. Another comment submitted by a museum states that important fossil vertebrate reserves exist in the area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (12,139 acres), contains minor imprints of man and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. After receiving the public comments, field checks were made and it was determined that one road did exist within the unit near the southwest boundary. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude this. Field checks were also conducted to determine if any ranches, farms or gravel pits exist within the unit. There are none.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

0974

0917

U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

Jacks Canyon

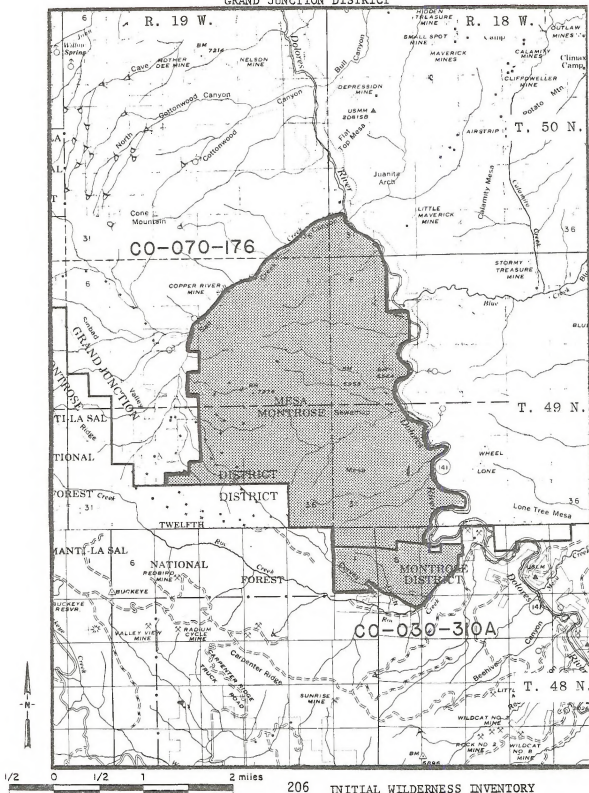
Island Mesa

Whitewater

Triangle Mesa

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



206 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

The unit is located approximately 10 miles south of Gateway and 12 miles northwest of Uravan in Mesa and Montrose counties.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,900 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-176
Area Name: Sewmup Mesa
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

A telephone right-of-way runs along the eastern boundary of the unit adjacent to Colorado Highway 141. Approximately 60 percent of the unit is under oil and gas lease with most of the remainder of the unit under application for lease. While numerous uranium claims exist within the unit, no mining activity is presently occurring. Permanent improvements include several old cabins, two stock reservoirs, and several ways. Parts of the unit are authorized for grazing, which is the primary use. The unit is excellent habitat for wildlife with some hunting and trapping occurring. The historic McCarty outlaw cabin exists within the unit as well as traces of past Indian occupation. In general the vegetation is the pinyon-juniper woodland type with some isolated stands of Ponderosa pine. Sewmup Mesa and Shipad Valley are the outstanding topographic features of the unit. The unit is bordered on the southwest by a USFS RARE II area (Roc Creek 4-434) which was not selected for wilderness. BLM intensive inventory unit CO-030-310A in the Montrose District is contiguous on the south border of the unit.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None
Roads: None
Naturalness: None

General Comments:

One comment stated that the area should not be recommended for wilderness because of oil and gas potential.

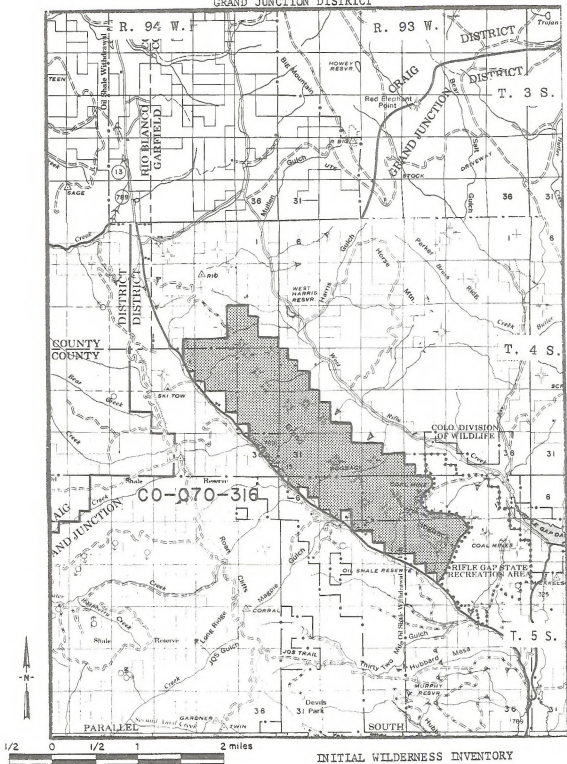
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (17,900 acres). Sewmup Mesa has been previously recommended for management as a wildland area. Sewmup Mesa itself is virtually unaffected by human activities and is thus highly natural. It represents one of the few large areas (if not the largest) within the Uravan Mineral Belt that has not been impacted by activities related to uranium mining.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:
Roc Creek
Juanita Arch
Red Canyon
Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
North of Rifle (Garfield County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 11,700 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-316
Area Name: Grand Hogback
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

One right-of-way and several oil and gas leases exist on the unit. Withdrawals exist along the western boundary for a silt reclamation project and an oil shale withdrawal in the northwestern portion. Classified coal land areas have been identified in the area. The area has been identified as a potential coal area. Most of the area is authorized for grazing. Other major activities include hunting and firewood cutting. Fences and ways are the only permanent improvements known to be present. Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush are the primary vegetation types, although oak, aspen and spruce-fir are also present. The Hogback is very steep with cliffs, canyons, and a series of approximately seven peaks. A natural arch has been found along the southeast boundary. The unit is contiguous to a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:

The boundary was altered in the southern portion to omit several ways, roads, fences, reservoirs, and mines. 3,660 acres were deleted in Sections 34, 35, T.4S., R.93W. and Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 24, T.5S., R.93W.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: One comment addressed the irregular configuration of the unit as not being reasonably compact and geographically logical.

Roads: Several comments mentioned there were too many maintained roads within the unit. Other comments were concerned with the visibility of these roads throughout the unit.

Naturalness: Several comments concerned naturalness; some mentioned specific man-made features that were quite apparent because vegetative screening was sparse, or that there were too many man-made features in general.

General Comments:

Many comments were concerned with restricting exploration and development of valuable energy and mineral resources if the unit became wilderness. Several comments concerned the constant noise and pollution from outside activities and therefore concluded solitude is not attainable. Other comments expressed general support for the unit becoming wilderness. One comment stated that known vertebrate fossils exist in this unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The boundaries have been adjusted to eliminate major modifications of man. Approximately 10,000 acres of contiguous roadless natural land remain in the unit and meet the initial inventory criteria.

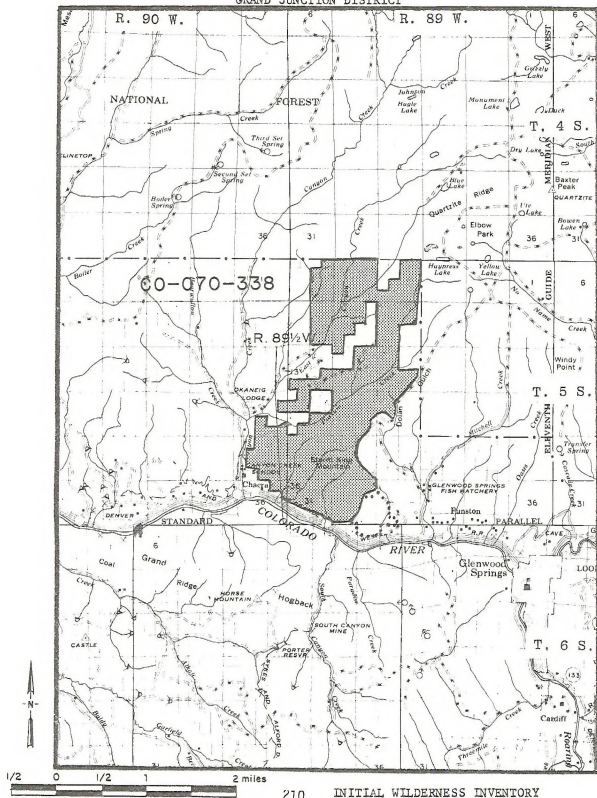
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

Rio Blanco
Horse Mountain
Rifle

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



210 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
Northwest of Glenwood Springs (Garfield County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION: Inventory #: CO-070-338
Size: 7,000 acres Area Name: Storm King
District: Glenwood Springs State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The road easements and a railroad right-of-way exist in the unit. One withdrawal for a stock driveway occurs in the unit. Several oil and gas leases have been issued in the southwest corner, and grazing is authorized throughout the unit. Limestone mining potential has been identified in the northeastern portion. Permanent improvements include trails, fences, several developed springs and a way up Possum Creek. Grazing, hunting and outfitting are dominant uses. A few caves can be found in the western side of the unit. Steep and rolling terrain characterize the topography, and oak, pinyon-juniper, aspen, spruce and fir have all been identified on the unit. USFS lands are contiguous to the unit's northern boundary.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:
In Sections 32, 33, T.5S., R.89W. and Sections 1, 2, T.6S., R.90W. approximately 500 acres were deleted, adjusting the boundary along a powerline.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None
Roads: A comment addressed the jeep trail running along the NW boundary of the unit as being a rough jeep road with no signs of maintenance and little use.
Naturalness: None

General Comments:
None

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

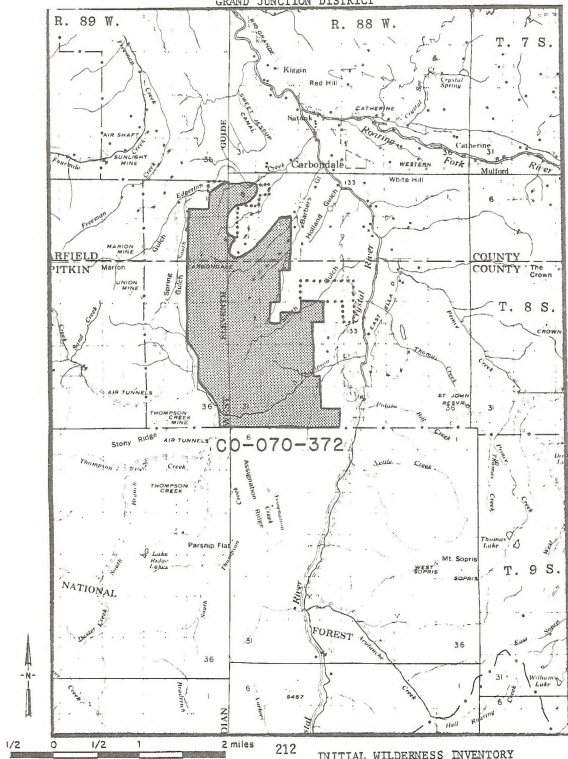
The unit appears to have at least 5,000 acres of roadless, natural area and requires a more intensive analysis.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: USGS Topographic Quad:
Carbonate, Adams Lake,
0584 Storm King, Glenwood
0640 Springs
0641

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-21

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



212

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
South of Carbondale (Pitkin County-Garfield County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 8,800 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-372
Area Name: Thompson Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Grazing is authorized on the unit through BLM permit. Evidence of past coal mining exists, and a potential for oil, gas, sand and gravel development has been identified. Permanent improvements include an abandoned railroad, a shed, and several old coal mines, as well as fences, reservoirs and a few ways. Grazing is the primary use, in the northern half of the unit, with other dispersed recreational activities, including a proposed natural environmental area, in the southern portion. Some firewood sales have taken place in the northern portion of the unit. Rolling to steep hills, with some cliffs, spires and interesting geological formations characterize the topography; pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation, with spruce-fir and aspen along the creeks in the southern portion. The southern boundary joins White River National Forest. Adjacent to the west is an active underground coal mine with a haul road paralleling the roadless area.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:

In Section 1, T.8S., R.89W less than 40 acres were deleted by establishing the boundary along a gasoline and powerline rights-of-way. In Section 6, T.8S., R.88W, the boundary was adjusted along a fence-line and way omitting several ways and an area impacted by firewood sales, totaling 160 acres. In Section 21, T.6S., R.88W, 480 acres were eliminated. The adjusted boundary runs along the fence-line across the northern edge, omitting ways, fences, a powerline and an irrigation canal in a narrow portion of the unit in Sections 16, 15, 22, T.8S., R.88W.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None
Road: One comment addressed the existence of roads and ways in the unit.

Naturalness: One comment addressed the existence of the old railroad right-of-way along Thompson Creek but stated the works of man could be reduced to an unnoticeable level.

General Comments:

One comment expressed concern over wilderness designation as it would deny access to future coal reserves. It was also stated that the unit was located on an outcrop of an existing coal field which still had producing mines located in it. A comment was received that the unit was valuable for oil and gas, sodium, and asphaltic material. One comment expressed support for the unit to become wilderness, but no reasons were given. Another comment expressed no support and would rather have the area left as it is.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The man-made modifications in the southern half are of cultural interest and do not detract significantly from the naturalness of the unit. The northern half has several ways and other improvements, but the major ones have been eliminated in the boundary adjustments. The area appears to be in a generally natural state and of sufficient size to merit further study.

REFERENCES:

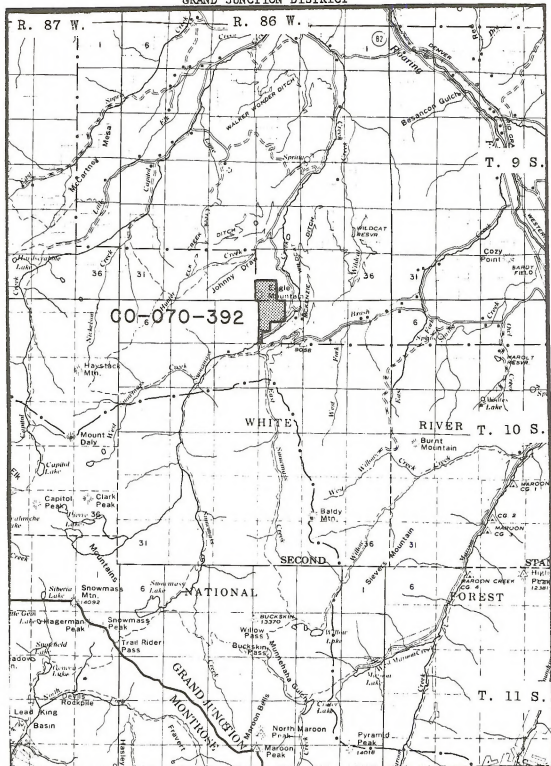
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0699
0756

Cattle Creek
Stony Ridge
Mt. Sopris
Carbondale

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-21, NW-27

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

214 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
West of Aspen (Pitkin County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 270 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-392
Area Name: Eagle Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on this unit. All lands within the unit are administered by the BLM. The unit is bounded by non-public land, except the SE corner and southern tip, which are intersected briefly by a county and USFS maintained road. Natural Forest Boundary adjoins the unit in an area that has been recommended for wilderness designation as a result of RARE II (A2-180).

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:
None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment addressed the size of the unit as being less than 5,000 acres and requested the unit be omitted from the inventory.

Roads: None

Naturalness: None

General Comments: One comment was given supporting wilderness designation for the study unit.

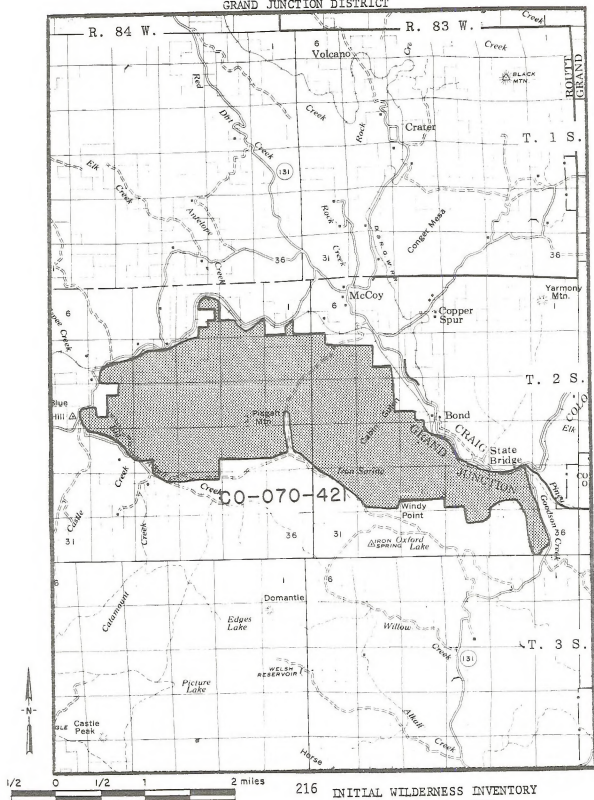
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

This unit is roadless and natural, and adjoins an area recommended by the U.S. Forest Service for wilderness designation as a result of RARE II (A2-180). Areas adjoining designated or proposed wilderness areas which meet all initial inventory criteria except size will be studied in the intensive phase.

REFERENCE:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:
0815 Capitol Peak
Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-28

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



General Location:
Southwest of Bond (Eagle County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 15,500 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-421
Area Name: Pisgah Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Several rights-of-ways and oil and gas leases are found within the unit. Most of the area is authorized for grazing, and this is the dominant use of the land. Silver and gold placers have been reported, but little information is available on actual exploration. There is a potential for oil, gas, and possibly uranium. Fences, reservoirs, and ways are scattered throughout the unit with the highest concentration in the south central portion; an old cabin, a mine and a spring have also been located. Hunting and ORV activity are present. The unit is steep and rolling, with over two dozen peaks ranging from 8,560 feet to 6,800 feet. Piñon-juniper and sagebrush are the dominant vegetation. The unit is contiguous to BLM inventory unit CO-010-178 and a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:
None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None
Roads: A letter stated there is an old stage road in the unit which was the main thoroughfare to northwestern Colorado. The letter stated that the route is in heavy use today by vacationers, hunters and livestock interests. Another letter addressed the southern boundary road found in T.2S., R.84W Section 26, 27 and 28. This letter also addressed the maintained roads which form the boundary found in T.2S., R.83W Section 29, 30 and T.2S., R.84W Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 24 and 28. Comments were also received stating other ways existed in the unit and that county roads were too close to the unit. These comments on roads and ways will be field checked during the intensive inventory.
Naturalness: One comment reiterated the modifications referenced in the situation evaluation.

General Comments:

Some comments said the unit has greater potential for industry produced products, i.e., mineral and oil development, timber harvesting, and grazing. One observer stated that a power transmission line outside the unit can be seen from virtually every high point on the unit. A comment also addressed support for the wilderness designation as long as the area is "truly wilderness." This statement went on to say much of the country is already overgrazed and has heavy ORV use and there is a fear wilderness will disappear if not preserved. Comment was also received that the unit has low scenic value. One observer stated that because the unit is located at a low elevation, it is "essential wildlife habitat". In T.2S., R.84W. Section 16 mineral rights are owned by the state. One observer stated that power site withdrawals within the unit have heavily impacted it. However, these withdrawals have never been developed. A comment was received stating that the unit had good potential for wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is sufficient size, is roadless, and is generally free of man's imprints. Further study is warranted.

REFERENCES:

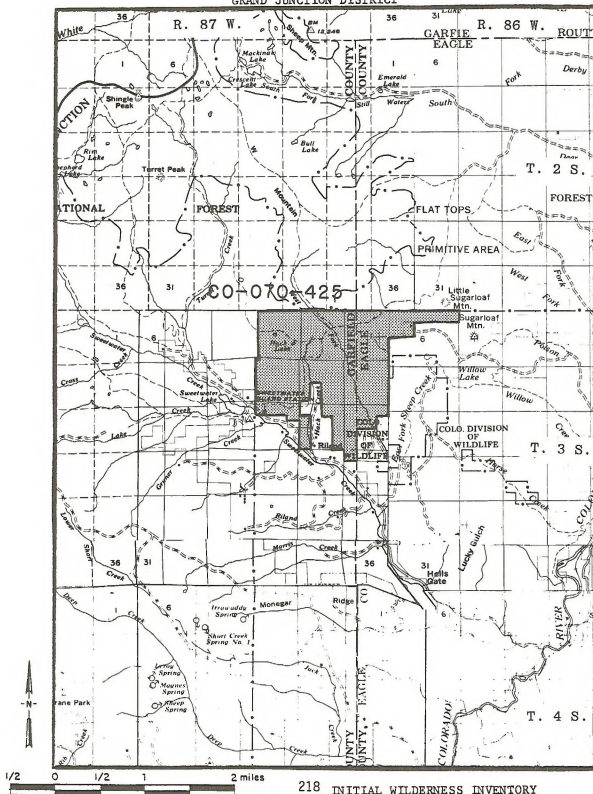
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

474
475
531
532, 533

Burns North
Blue Hill
Burns South
Castle Creek, State
Bridge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-16

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



218 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:

North of Dotsero (Eagle County-Garfield County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,300 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-425

Area Name: Hack Lake
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

A stock driveway withdrawal is present within the unit, grazing is authorized and constitutes the primary use of the land. No mining claims are known to exist, but oil and gas potential is suspected. Permanent improvements include a cabin at Hack Lake, trails, a spring, a 3/4 mile way which may be a road, fences, and a corral. The area is also popular for dispersed recreation activities such as hiking, fishing and hunting. Some of the land was reseeded in 1956. Steep, rolling terrain with cliffs characterize the topography, while vegetation includes oak, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, aspen and spruce-fir. USFS adjoins to the north and west. Flattops Wilderness Area is included here. A state wildlife area is contiguous on the east.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None

Roads: One comment said there were primitive roads in the unit.

Naturalness: None

General Comments:

A general comment supporting areas which are "truly wilderness" was received and listed The Hack Lake area as an area they supported. A letter was received recommending against wilderness due to the mineral potential of the area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit has several modifications of man, primarily located in the southeast corner; however, the overall naturalness of the area is not impaired. The area also deserves further consideration due to the location adjacent to an existing USFS wilderness.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:
Quad:

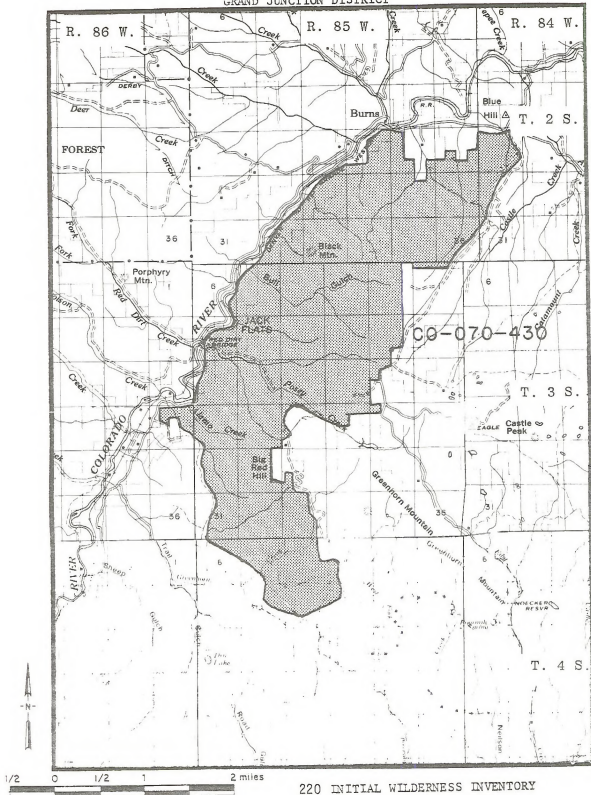
U.S.G.S. Topographic

0529

Sweetwater Lake
Sugarloaf Mountain

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-15, NW-16

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



220 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
South of Burns (Eagle County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 21,000 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-430
Area Name: Bull Gulch
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Three easements (two Telephone lines and a powerline) exist on the unit. Oil and gas leases have been issued throughout the area, and livestock grazing has been authorized for most of the unit. Silver and gold placers have been located along the river, and the potential for uranium is suspected to be large. Permanent improvements include range and wildlife fences, a spring, an irrigation ditch and pipeline. Aside from grazing, the unit's activities include firewood sales, archeological studies, and hunting. Pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation, with Ponderosa pine, sagebrush, aspen, and spruce-fir also present. The unit is steep and rolling with deeply incised gullies and canyons. To the northeast is CO-070-421; to the east is private property; and to the east and north are BLM lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None

Roads: None

Naturalness: One comment addressed that the imprints of man's work were substantially noticeable but no specific imprints were discussed.

General Comments: Comments stating wilderness designation would prevent mineral, oil and gas exploration were received. A comment reported the possibility of fossil vertebrate resources existing within the unit. Comments were received expressing feelings for maintaining the multiple use concept in the unit because the area lacked wilderness characteristics. Comments supporting wilderness designation were also received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Bull Gulch is of sufficient size (21,000 acres) and appears to be natural and roadless. No specific information on roads or other evidences of man were reported by the public. The northern portion of the unit contains the greatest intensity of imprints of man and a boundary adjustment will be considered at the intensive inventory phase.

REFERENCES:

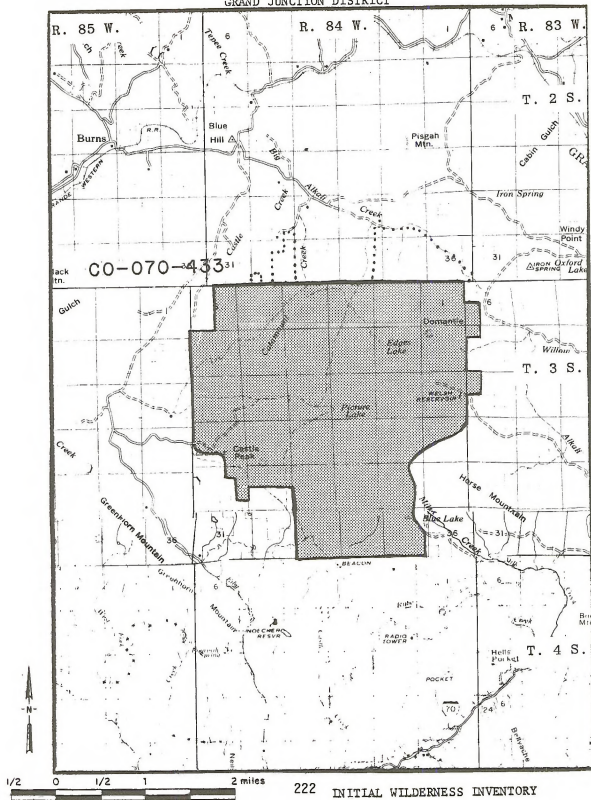
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

531
588
589

Burns South
Cypsum
Eagle

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-16, NW-22

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT



222 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
North of Eagle (Eagle County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 17,500 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-433
Area Name: Castle Peak
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

One easement and two rights-of-way exist within the unit. Numerous oil and gas leases are scattered throughout, and grazing is authorized on portions of the area. A good potential for oil, gas, and uranium is present, although only a few exploration activities are being conducted. Several firebreaks, old cabins, and manmade lakes occur, as well as many fences and ways. An old fire tower has also been reported. Grazing is the dominant use, although some snow research is also being conducted. Sagebrush, the dominant vegetation, has been sprayed on the northwest portion, but this is the only land treatment in the unit. Other vegetation is also present, including aspen and spruce-fir. The topography is steep to rolling, with Castle Peak (11,275 feet) forming the highest point. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:
None

Deletions:

In the northeastern part of the unit approximately 1,440 acres was eliminated from intensive inventory due to major impacts on naturalness (T.2S, R.84W Sections 26, 27, 28, 33, 34). A major powerline exists in this portion of the unit with a maintained road along the powerline R/W. Several ways and a fence also exist in this portion of the unit. The boundary of the area being deleted is along the fence-line.

Two other smaller areas of 320 and 40 acres were deleted along the northern portion of the unit. The area of 320 acres (T.2S, R.84W, Sections 29 and 32) contains part of the powerline mentioned above and a fence. The 40 acre portion (T.2S, R.84W, Section 32 SESE) extends north of the unit and is separated from the rest of the unit by a fence line. Both boundary adjustments are along the existing fence-lines.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Size: None
Roads: A comment addresses the Coberly Gap road maintenance to Blue Lake which also provides access to Welch Reservoir. Another comment addressed maintained roads in the unit lead to other man-made features such as reservoirs and man-made lakes.
Naturalness: Many comments were received reporting man-made features such as reservoirs, fences, and irrigation ditches in the unit. One comment addressed the power transmission line, they feel it is a man made improvement which visually dominates the entire northern section of the unit. Other comments addressed the wide variety of desert and wild flowers found in the meadows and valleys.

General Comments:

Township 2S, Range 84W (all of Section 36) is state owned (minerals). A couple of comments stated that the unit is a good candidate for intensive wilderness designation, and that preservation of our natural resources is important for our survival. Other comments addressed the unit as being a beautiful area with man's imprint recognizable. They recommend the unit remain as a multiple use area.

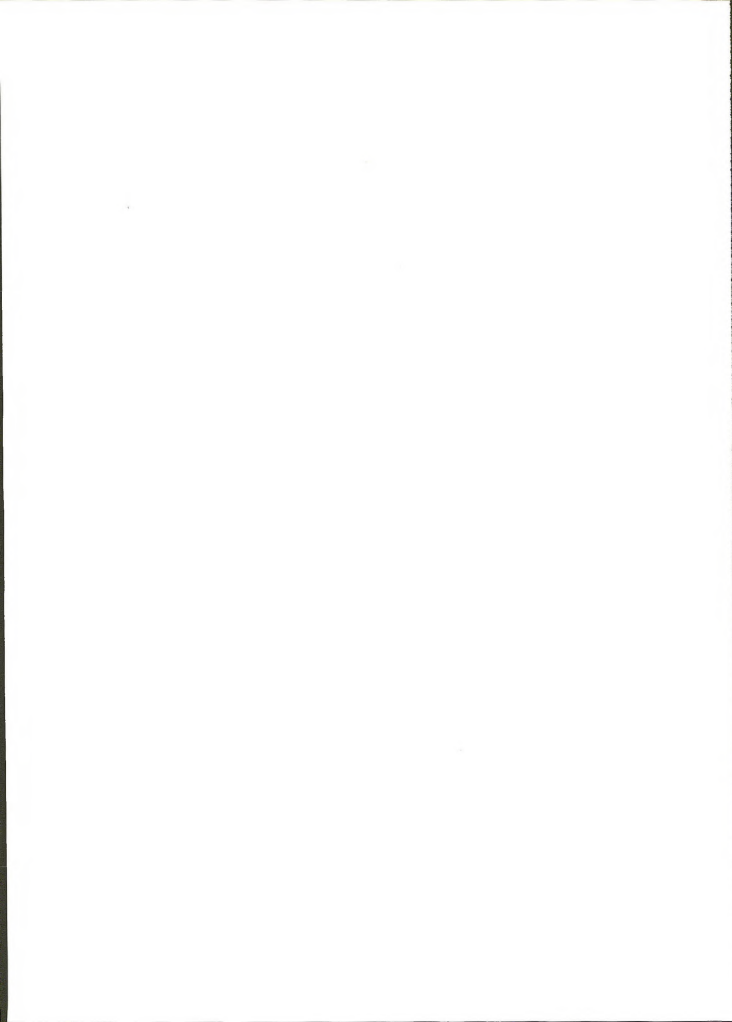
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Other than some pack trails and fences, the area appears relatively free of major permanent developments. Many of the developments discussed in letters received are either on the boundary of the unit (Coberly Gap road) or outside of the areas on recommended for intensive inventory (routes to communication sites, powerlines, etc.). A relatively high density of man-made imprints exist in the southeastern portion of the unit. A final decision as to whether this portion of the unit will be eliminated from further wilderness consideration will be made during the intensive study phase.

REFERENCES:

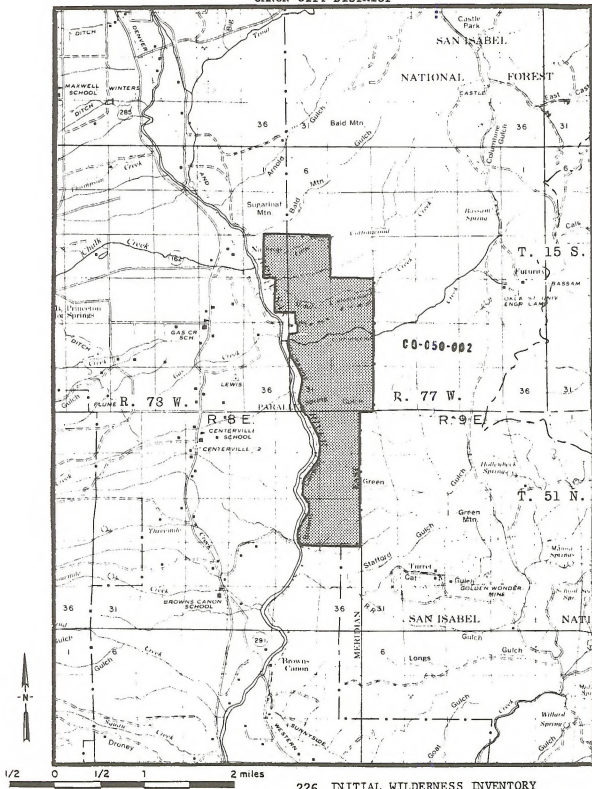
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:	U.S.G.S. Topographic
Quad:	
0531	Castle Peak
0532	State Bridge
	Eagle

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-16



CANON CITY
(050)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANON CITY DISTRICT



226 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
South of Buena Vista (Chaffee County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,468 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-002
Area Name: Brown's Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire area has previously been withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the general mining laws. No easements exist on the unit, nor are there any permanent improvements. Some of the area is authorized for grazing. Several abandoned ruins in the unit are considered to be of historic value. Uses aside from grazing involve dispersed recreational activities along the Arkansas River. Vegetation is generally sparse throughout the area, with pinyon-juniper making up the dominant timber type and rabbitbrush making up the dominant ground cover. San Isabel National Forest is contiguous to the east; to the south is BLM land; and to the northwest are mostly private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No comment.

Roads: Several letters addressed maintained and improved roads within the unit. A field check determined that these have not been improved or maintained and are, in fact, ways.

Accuracy: Several comments said some old mining structures exist in the unit. Some old photos indicated that these structures were present, but they could not be located on the ground. Evidence of previous mining activities is only slightly noticeable.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

One comment stated that the unit has not adequately been explored for its mineral potential. Another stated the mineral resource value of the unit is high. Other resources uses of the land will be considered in the "study" phase of the BLM Wilderness Review. One comment stated that the area should be preserved as wilderness to protect archeological sites. One comment stated the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. This will be examined in the intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size, is generally free of imprints of man, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation appear to be present. Several ways are found in the unit but these, in many cases, are only two-wheel ruts. Further study is needed to determine if the topography "hides" these detractors from naturalness, minimizing their impact.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

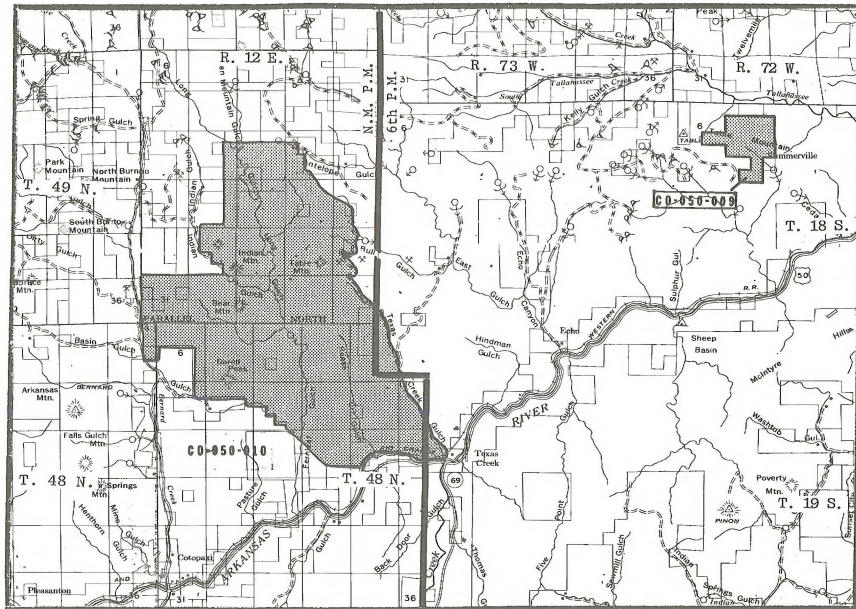
0993
0994
1050
1051

Buena Vista
Poncha Springs

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-5

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CRAIG DISTRICT



General Location:

Southwest of Canon City (Fremont County)

UNIT OF IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,000 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-014
Area Name: Lower Grape Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is authorized for grazing, and this is an active use. No easements and no permanent improvements are located on the unit, but several mining claims have been identified. The topography varies from rolling hills to steep mountain slopes; vegetative patterns vary from grasses and sagebrush-covered mesas to minor pine forests on the higher slopes. Private lands border the unit to the northeast and southwest, and public lands border on the northwest. The southeast borders USFS lands that were dropped from final wilderness considerations.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions: Approximately 2,060 acres have been added to the southern boundary along Grape Creek as a result of public comment. Field check has shown no significant imprints of man in this area.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated the area is less than 2 miles wide. Another comment addressed the concern that the land south of the unit boundary to Bear Gulch be added to the unit; this has been included as a result of a field check on this comment.

Roads: Several general comments stated the unit contained roads, but a field check indicates these are probably "ways". Intensive study is warranted.

Naturalness: The same letter which commented on roads also made general comments about imprints of man within the unit. Old mining structures are present and will be examined in the intensive inventory.

General Comments:

One comment noted that the unit would be inaccessible because private land surrounds it. This will be a subject examined in the study phase of the wilderness review. Other comments related to the study phase include lost mineral resources, lost opportunities for recreational use of the land, and loss of private woodcutting opportunities should the area be designated wilderness. One comment said the unit lacked opportunities for solitude. This will be analyzed in the intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The area appears to be in a natural condition and is of sufficient size (13,000 acres). Because of the topography in the unit, there are outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

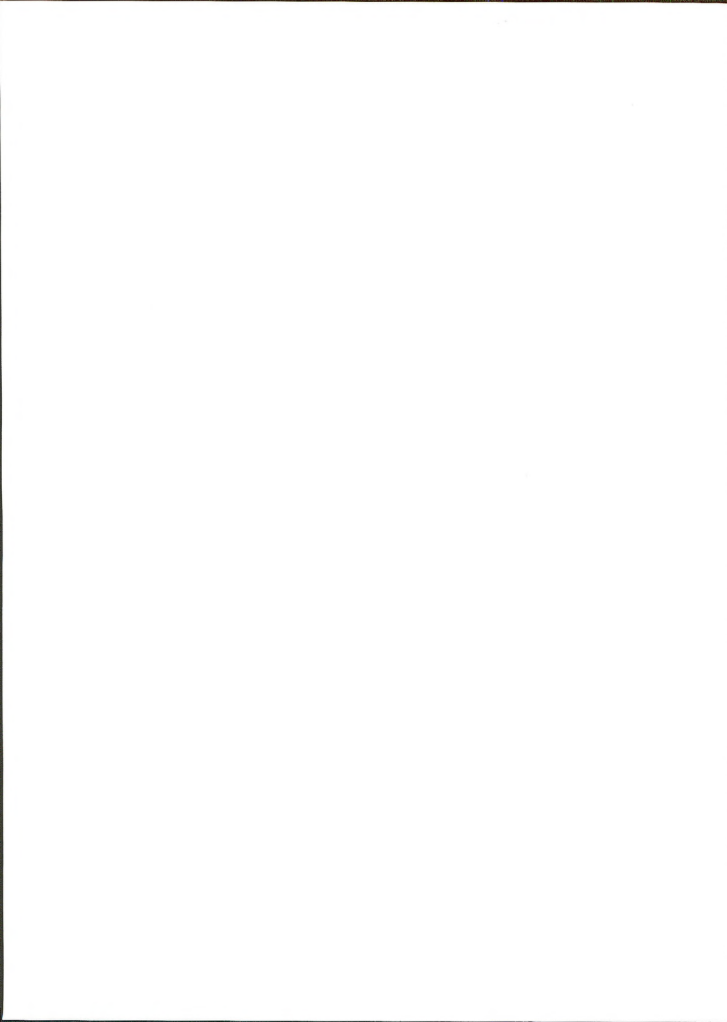
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic
Quad:

1169
1170
1227

Cotopaxi
Royal Gorge

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-12



GENERAL LOCATION:

Southwest of Canon City (Fremont and Custer Counties)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,080 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-017
Area Name: Upper Grape Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

A railroad easement exists in the unit, as do several patented and unpatented mining claims. Approximately 3,000 acres have thorium potential. Vegetation consists mostly of pinon, juniper, and conifer. Very steep, rugged slopes characterize the topography. Lands adjoining to the east, west, and south are privately owned, the northern border adjoins BLM lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments specifically addressed size, roads, or naturalness.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

One comment noted that the unit would be inaccessible because private land surround it. This will be a subject examined in the study phase of the wilderness review. Other comments related to the study phase include lost mineral resources, lost opportunities for recreational use of the land, and loss of private woodcutting opportunities should the area be designated wilderness. One comment said the unit lacked opportunities for solitude. This will be analyzed in the intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and although it has some detractors from naturalness, the steep topography generally makes these detractors appear minimal.

REFERENCES:

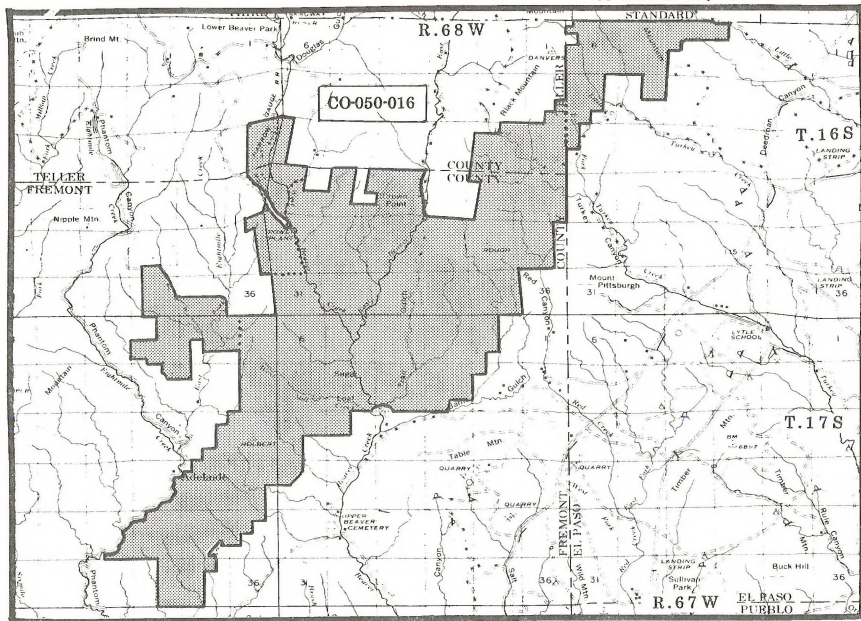
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1169	Cotopaxi
1170	Royal Gorge
1227	

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-12

1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976



General Location:
North of Cotopaxi (Fremont County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 12,950 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-010
Area Name: Bear Mountain
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Three hundred acres of state-owned land lie within the unit. A three-mile road easement runs through the unit. While most of the land is authorized for grazing, this is not presently a use. Several unpatented mining claims exist, and approximately 3,160 acres have Pegmatite potential. Five check dams have been located throughout the unit. Pinyon-juniper is the primary vegetation. A rugged terrain with several wide gulches characterizes the topography. Surrounding lands are a mixture of BLM and private.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:
None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: No Comments.
Roads: One letter said Highway 50 borders the unit. In fact a river separates the highway from the unit.
Naturalness: One comment says the unit shows substantial human impact, but gives no specifics. No major imprints of man have been found in the unit.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Several comments addressed issues to be examined during the study phase of the wilderness review. Several letters addressed the potential for minerals in the unit. One comment noted the presence of outside sights and sounds while in the unit. One comment said the unit lacked opportunities for solitude. This will be analyzed in the intensive inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Although the area has some detractors from naturalness, its size and topography make these detractors appear minimal.

REFERENCES:

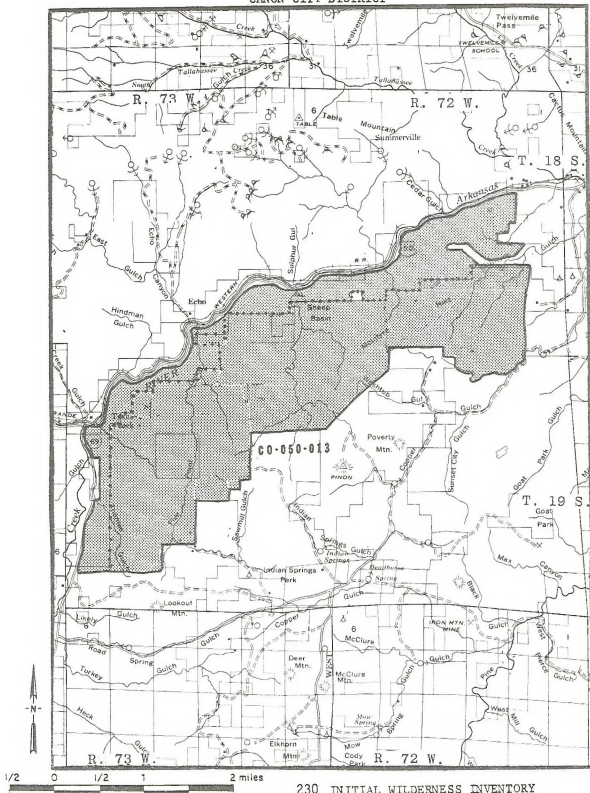
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1111
1167
1168

Black Mountain
Howard
Cotopaxi

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-6, SW-12

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANON CITY DISTRICT



230 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location:
Southwest of Canon City (Fremont County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:
Size: 20,100 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-013
Area Name: McIntyre Hills
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Within the unit lie 350 acres of Colorado State land inholdings. Some acres have been authorized for grazing. Numerous mining claims and one powerline easement exist on the unit. Several check dams are located in the draws, and in the southwest corner a spring development has been constructed. A firewood cutting area is found in the southern portion. Big game hunting and ORV use are very popular. Some of the unit is marked by past mining exploration and sawmill operations. The topography varies from rolling hills to steep mountain slopes. Deep gullies and mesas divide the unit into distinctive groupings. Vegetative patterns vary from grass and sage-covered mesas to minor pine forests on the higher slopes. The unit is bordered by interdispersed private and public lands on the south.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

As shown on the attached map the boundary has been enlarged to include lands under a Bureau of Reclamation Powersite Withdrawal. When the boundary was drawn for the situation evaluation, it was not known that lands with powersite withdrawals would be included in a unit.

Additions:

Approximately 5,050 acres have been added to the northern and western boundary to include lands withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment said the area was of adequate size.
Roads: One general comment stated that numerous traveled roads cross the unit, but a field check indicated that these are outside the unit. Private lands associated with these roads are also outside the unit. Another comment included a map showing "ways" to the north of the unit, indicating that the unit should be expanded to the north. A boundary adjustment to the north has been made.

Naturalness: Several comments noted the presence of powerlines and towers in the unit. These are now on the northern edge of the unit. One letter reiterated the imprints of man written in the original situation evaluation of the unit. These are not major imprints of man and do not disqualify the area from further study. One comment said the unit was generally natural.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Several comments addressed the mineral potential of the area, a subject to be analyzed in the "study" phase of the BLM Wilderness Review. Other comments related to the study phase include the following, the unit would be closed to ORV use if the area wilderness; valuable grazing lands and water resources would be lost if the area were designated wilderness; and private woodcutting would be restricted if the area were designated wilderness. One comment said that there are unique geologic features in the unit. Two comments stated there are outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size, and although there are "works of man" visible in this unit, they are minor and most imprints are hidden by the topography. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation appear to be present.

REFERENCES:

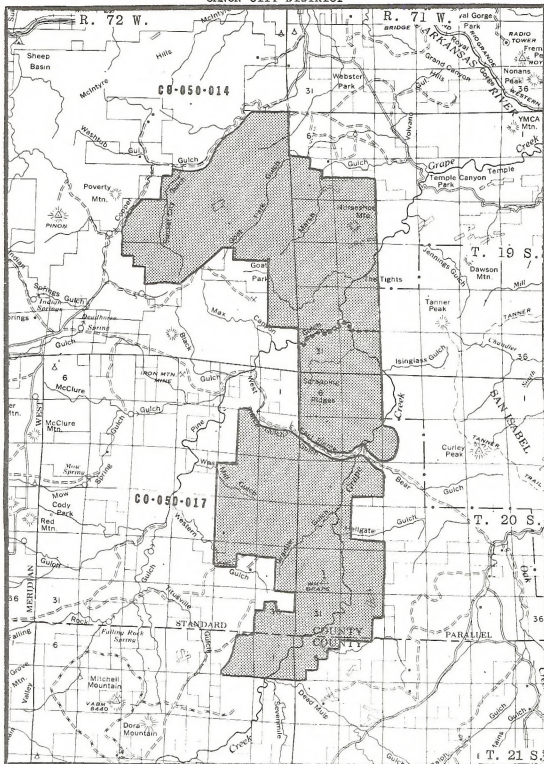
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1168
1169
1170
1225

Cotopaxi
Royal Gorge
Electric Peak

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-12

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANON CITY DISTRICT



232 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location: Northeast of Canon City (Teller County-Fremont County-El Paso County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 26,210 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: 00-050-016
Area Name: Beaver Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. No known patented mining claims have been found. Grazing is authorized for the entire unit, and this constitutes the primary land use. Some hunting and fishing occur along Beaver Creek. The vegetation is conifer with some piñon-juniper, while the topography is steep and rugged. With the exception of 870 acres of Colorado State Division of Wildlife lands along the Beaver Creek streambed, all lands within the unit boundaries are public lands. Land ownership outside the units boundaries is a mixture of public, private, and state lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 2,180 acres have been added in the northeast corner as a result of a public concern and field check. The field check revealed that a "road" was in reality a "way."

Approximately 1,540 acres have been added to the west, when a field check revealed no significant imprints of man in the area.

Approximately 1,380 acres have been added to the northwest corner. The new boundary only excludes the major imprints of man, including a "way" and an abandoned powerplant associated with this "way."

Deletions:

In Section 25, T. 17 S., R. 69 W., the boundary was altered to omit a clay mine.

The boundary at the mouth of Beaver Creek was adjusted to the north to exclude several major imprints of man, including a dam and water diversion project.

In Section 22, S. 17 S., R. 69 W., the boundary was adjusted to exclude a road and mine exploration area.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One writer gave a legal description of the boundaries he felt should be included.

Roads: One comment states that what BLM is calling a "way" along Trail Gulch is a road but no rationale is given. The same area was addressed by another writer who felt the area was returning to a "natural state" because of erosion.

Naturalness: Three comments concern naturalness very generally. One said that the area is essentially natural or returning to that condition while two said it contained "imprints of man."

General Comments:

While air quality is a concern of the "study" phase of wilderness review and not of the inventory, the potential of automatic redesignation to Class I air quality as a result of wilderness designation is a major concern of numerous individuals and groups. They have expressed this both in meetings and letters.

One writer felt that a powerline easement still exists from the old powerplant to the city of Pueblo, but it is not shown on the Master Title Plats and no documentation could be found to verify its continued existence.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (25,640 acres), contains few imprints of man, and appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Some kind of cooperative agreement with the state will be negotiated to insure compatible management should the area be designated as "wilderness."

REFERENCES:

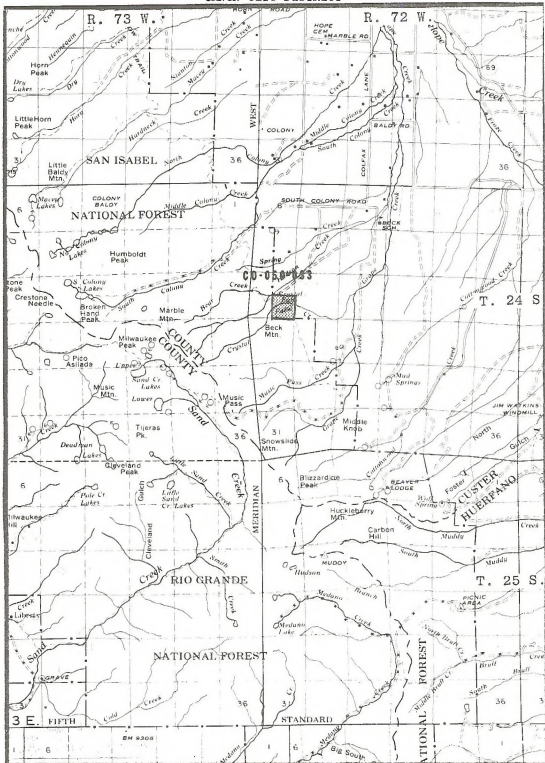
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1058
1059
1114
1115

Cripple Creek South
Big Bull Mountain
Cover Mountain
Copper Mountain

Colorado Surface-Mineral Management Color Quad: SW-6

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANCN CITY DISTRICT



INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location: South of Westcliffe (Custer County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 160 acres

District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-033

Area Name: Crystal Falls

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements, mining claims, leases, nor permanent improvements are to exist on the unit. The only use involves a portion of the heavily traveled Rainbow Trail, which cuts across the western edge. Essentially, the unit is a very steep gully with large outcroppings. Some pine trees grow along the ridge. The unit borders a USFS recommended wilderness area (RARE II #A2-266).

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

Because this unit is adjacent to the USFS land which is recommended for wilderness consideration, and because it contains an existing recreational trail, it meets the basic criteria for the intensive inventory.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

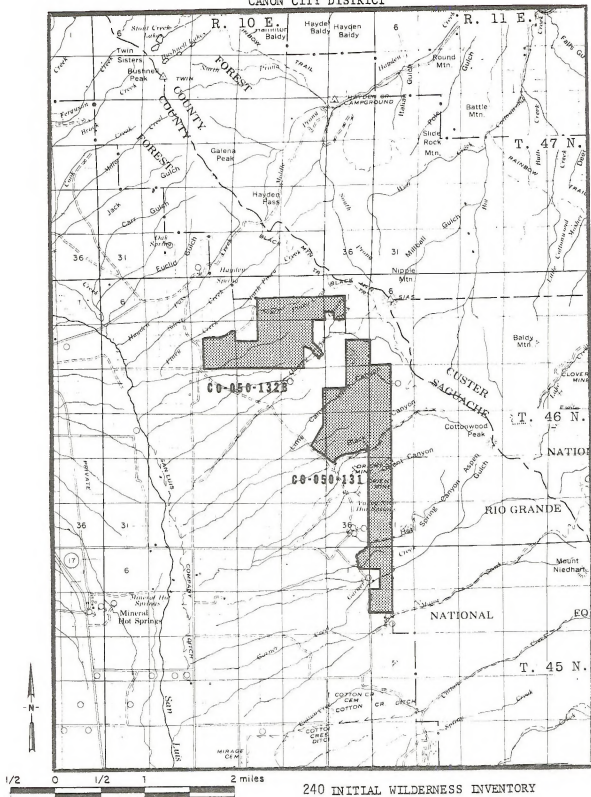
1397

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Crestone Peak

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-18

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANYON CITY DISTRICT



240 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest, Northeastern edge of San Luis Valley (Saguache County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,737 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-131
Area Name: Black Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Four parcels of patented lands lie within the boundaries; mining claims are known to exist on the unit, and mining activities do occur within the boundaries of the patented lands. While no easements nor oil and gas leases are located in the unit, the area is covered by an unused grazing authorization. Hunting and ORV use constitutes the primary activities, aside from the mining. Extremely rocky, steep slopes cut by major drainages characterize the topography. Vegetation consists of pine trees on northern slopes with bushes on south-facing areas. The unit is contiguous with a USFS recommended wilderness area to the north and east.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated that since the unit was less than 5,000 acres it should not be considered for wilderness.

No other comments were received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and exhibits characteristics similar to those within the USFS wilderness recommendation area; this appears to be a logical extension of the boundary.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Size: 1,587 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-132B
Area Name: South Piney Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under an active grazing authorization. While no easements nor other permanent improvements exist, several mining claims are located within the unit's boundaries. Current uses, aside from grazing, include ORV use and big game hunting. Extremely rocky, steep slopes cut by major drainages characterize the topography. Pine trees grow on northern slopes, and bushes are found on south-facing areas. The unit is contiguous with a USFS recommended wilderness area (A2-266).

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated that since the unit was less than 5,000 acres it should not be considered for wilderness.

No other comments were received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

While the unit is only 1,587 acres, its contiguity with USFS recommended wilderness expands its manageability as a wilderness. It exhibits the same wilderness characteristics as does the USFS land and appears to be a logical extension of the boundary.

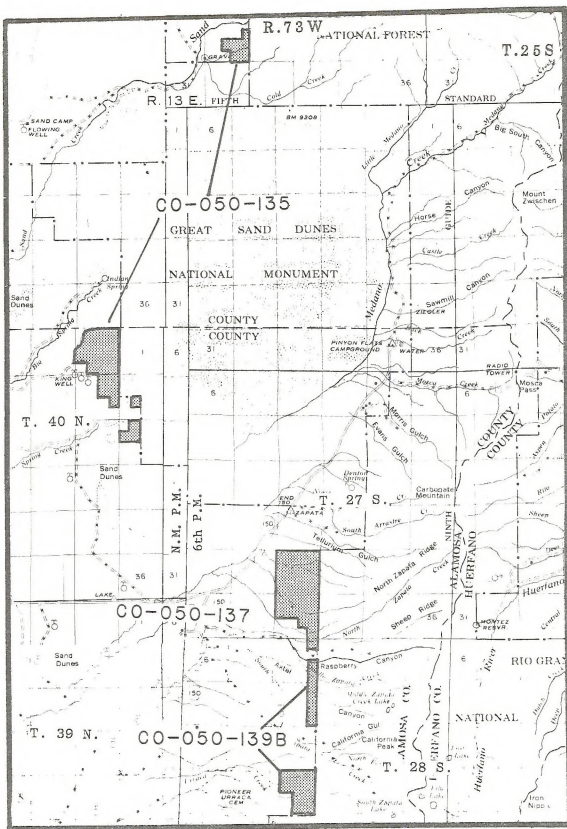
REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1280
1223

Villa Grove
Howard

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-11, SW-12



General Location: Adjacent to Great Sand Dunes National Monument - 4 small tracts (Alamosa County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4 areas: 896 acres, 128 acres,
400 acres, and 220 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-135

Area Name: Sand Castle
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

This unit consists of four separate areas bordering the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Total acreage is 1,644. No easements nor mining claims exist, but the unit is entirely covered by an active grazing authorization. A standard three-wire fence has been erected on the border between each of the four areas and Great Sand Dunes. Aside from grazing, occasional ORV use marks the only activity in the unit. Topographically the unit is generally flat, with some sand dunes on the eastern borders.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 220 acres have been added on the northern edge of the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness area. The final boundary map issued by the National Park Service shows that this unit and these public lands are adjacent at that point.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated that since the unit was less than 5,000 acres it should not be considered for wilderness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

This unit may offer a logical extension to the dune blow area, which would help in the management of the existing wilderness.

REFERENCES:

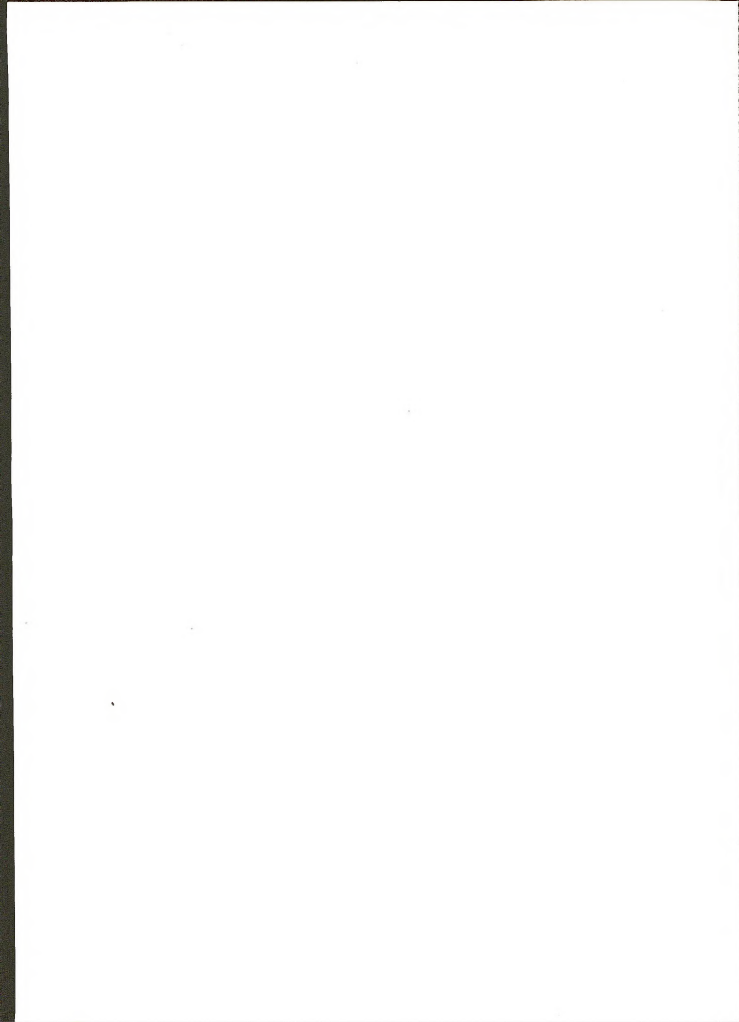
Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

1453
1510

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Sand Camp
Medano Ranch

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: Sw-18



General Location: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest (Alamosa County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,020 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: 00-050-137

Area Name: Papa Keal
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements and no permanent improvements exist on the unit, although some mining claims are contained within it. The entire unit is covered by an active grazing authorization, and grazing constitutes the land's primary use. A fence has been built along the eastern boundary. Some seasonal big game hunting has been observed. The topography consists of the extremely steep and rugged foothills of the Sangre De Cristo Range. Grasses, sage, and an occasional juniper are the dominant vegetation types. The unit is contiguous with USFS recommended wilderness lands (A2-766) on the eastern boundary; to the north is Colorado State land, and the remainder is BLM land.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated that since the unit was less than 5,000 acres that it should not be considered for wilderness.

No other comments were received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The topography of this unit is a natural extension of the USFS proposed wilderness area. The unit is of sufficient size in conjunction with the USFS land.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2 units - Total 614 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: 00-050-139B

Area Name: Zapata Creek
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements, mining claims, nor permanent improvements exist, but the entire unit is covered by an active grazing lease. Grazing and seasonal big game hunting are the unit's primary uses. The extremely rugged foothills of the Sangre De Cristo range characterize the unit's topography, while grasses and sage make up the dominant vegetation. Contiguous to the east is a USFS recommended wilderness area (A2-766). Other boundaries are a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: One comment stated that since the unit was less than 5,000 acres that it should not be considered for wilderness.

No other comments were received.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The topography of this unit forms a natural extension of the USFS proposed wilderness area; its size and shape lend themselves to management as an extended western boundary.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1510

1511

1567

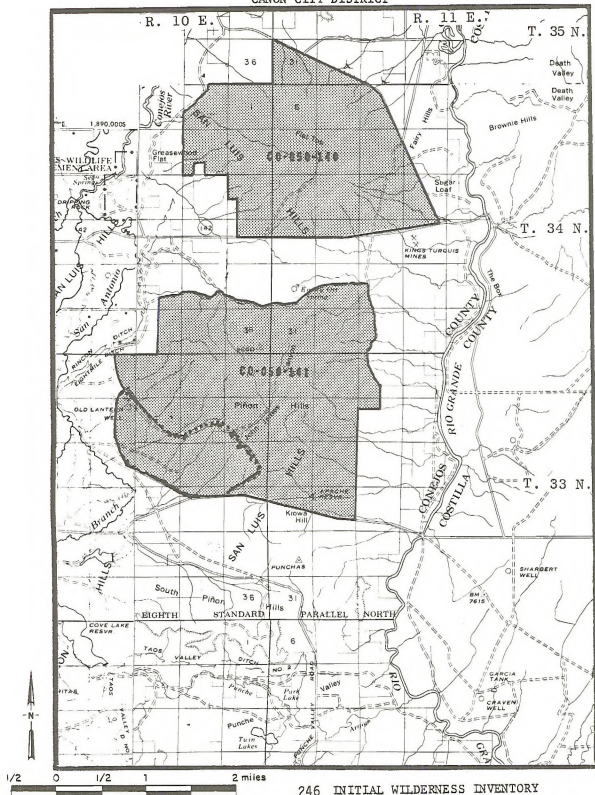
Medano Ranch

Zapata Ranch

Dry Lakes

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-18, SW-24

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado
CANON CITY DISTRICT



246 INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

General Location: Northeast of Antonito (Conejos County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 9,114 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-140
Area Name: Flat Top
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit, but several mining claims have been located. The unit is entirely covered by active grazing authorization. Permanent improvements include several check dams and a standard three-wire fence located on the southern and eastern boundaries. Aside from grazing, the uses include seasonal hunting and occasional ORV activity. Rolling hills with a large, centrally located mesa characterize the topography, while vegetation consists of sage, rabbitbrush, and associated grasses. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were received which addressed size, roads, naturalness or boundaries.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is generally free of man's imprints.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,514 acres
District: Canon City

Inventory #: CO-050-141
Area Name: San Louis Hills
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Within the unit lie 640 acres of Colorado State land inholdings. No easements nor mining claims are known to be present, but the entire unit is covered under active grazing authorizations. The only apparent permanent improvements are several check dams, although two ways wind through the central section of the unit. Aside from grazing, the unit sees some ORV use, as well as seasonal hunting. Flatlands leading into gently rolling hills cover the unit, with rabbitbrush and sagebrush forming the dominant vegetation. The unit is surrounded by BLM and Colorado State lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 2,300 acres have been added in the southwest corner as a result of a field check. The field check revealed that the "road" which constituted the boundary was in reality a "way."

Deletions:

The northern boundary was incorrectly shown in the "Initial Wilderness Inventory Proposals" handbook. The current boundary, as shown on the map is correct.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were received which addressed size, roads, naturalness or boundaries.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size and is generally free of man's imprints.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

1679

La Jara

1736

Manassa

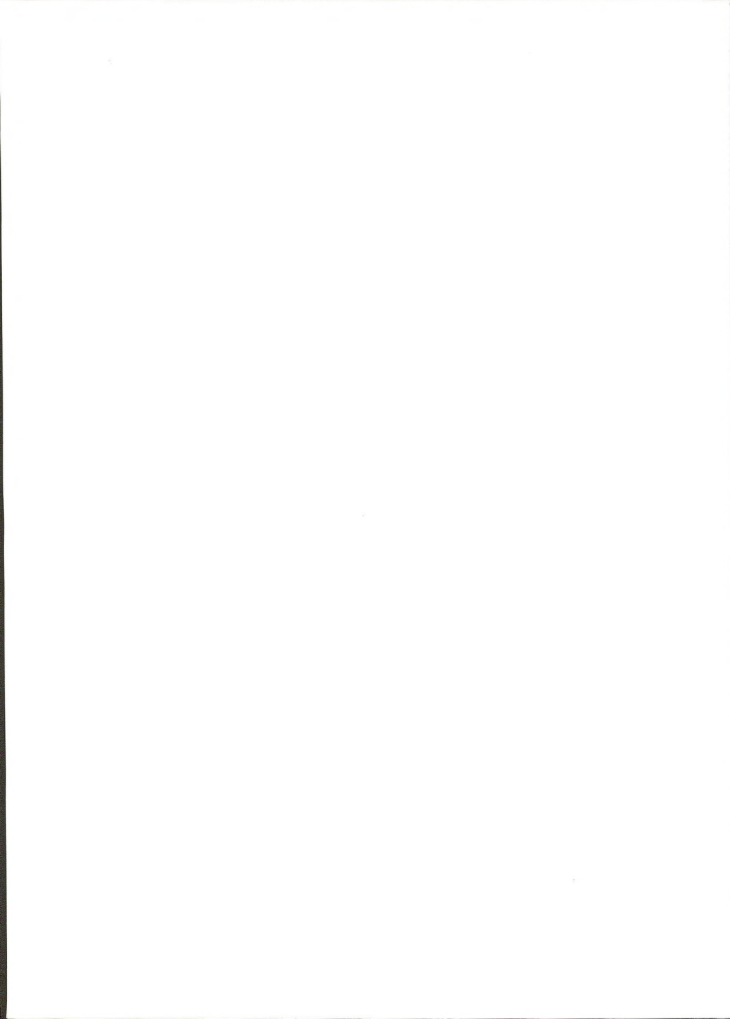
1737

Manassa N.E.

1793, 1794

Lobatos, Kiowa Hill

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-24, SW-30



CATEGORY "E" NARRATIVES

- Inventory units previously not recommended for intensive inventory but which will now be intensively inventoried.

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>General Location</u>
<u>CRAIG DISTRICT</u>		
CO-010-046	18,600	South of Rangely (Rio Blanco County)
<u>CANON CITY DISTRICT</u>		
CO-050-142	3,300	Southeast of Antonito (Conejos County)
<u>GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT</u>		
CO-070-009	29,300	North of Fruita (Garfield County)
CO-070-015A	13,000	North of Grand Junction (Garfield County-Mesa County)
CO-070-015B	12,800	North of Grand Junction (Garfield County-Mesa County)
CO-070-031	23,700	North of Grand Junction (Garfield County-Mesa County)
CO-070-130	21,500	South of Grand Junction (Mesa County)
CO-070-130A	8,000	South of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

CRAIG
(010)

CRAIG

Note: The intensive inventory for the White River Resource Area was accelerated in order to have the wilderness inventory information available for the writing of the White River Grazing Environmental Statement. In the original accelerated inventory, this unit was not proposed for further study; however, a field re-evaluation and public comment have resulted in the decision to conduct further intensive inventory on this unit.

General Location:
Southwest of Rangely, Colorado (Rio Blanco County)

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Size: 18,600 acres
District: Craig

Inventory No.: CO-010-46
Area Name: Missouri Creek
State: Colorado

Missouri Creek is under oil and gas lease, portions are under coal lease, and numerous easements exist in the unit. Some grazing and hunting activity occur.

The unit is predominately pinyon-juniper, with some conifers in the higher elevations. The topography is steep and rugged with numerous draws and ridges. The unit is entirely Public Land. Ownership outside the unit boundaries is predominately under BLM ownership. Portions of the boundary are adjacent to Colorado Division of Wildlife lands and a small amount of private land.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: One comment suggested that primitive recreation opportunities were outstanding.

Solitude: Two comments stated that access is in fact steep and difficult, thus being conducive to isolation.

Supplemental Values: Several comments mentioned the unit is of geologic interest and is the only undisturbed ridge of its structure and ecology in Colorado.

General Comments:

Fifty comments supported an intensive inventory recommendation for Missouri Creek.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (18,600), contains few imprints of man, and appears to offer opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

0514, 0515
0571, 0572
0628

Texas Creek
Texas Mtn.

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-13, NW-19.

SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

R. 11 E.

1,900,000%

-30--E

254 Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

CANON CITY

General Location: Southeast of Antonito (Conejos County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: Colorado 3,300 acres
New Mexico 9,600 acres
Total 12,900 acres

Inventory #: CO-050-142
NM-010-33
Area Name: Twin Peaks
States: Colorado
New Mexico

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. No patented mining claims are located within the unit. Grazing is authorized for the entire area, which constitutes the primary land use. The vegetation is grasses with bitterbrush and rabbitbrush. Some pinyon-juniper occurs on the hillsides in the northwest corner. All lands within the boundaries are public lands. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of public, private, and state lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Because of public comment, a Colorado/New Mexico border field inventory was done to check contiguous public lands. This field check found approximately 3,300 acres in Colorado and 9,600 acres in New Mexico.

RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY:

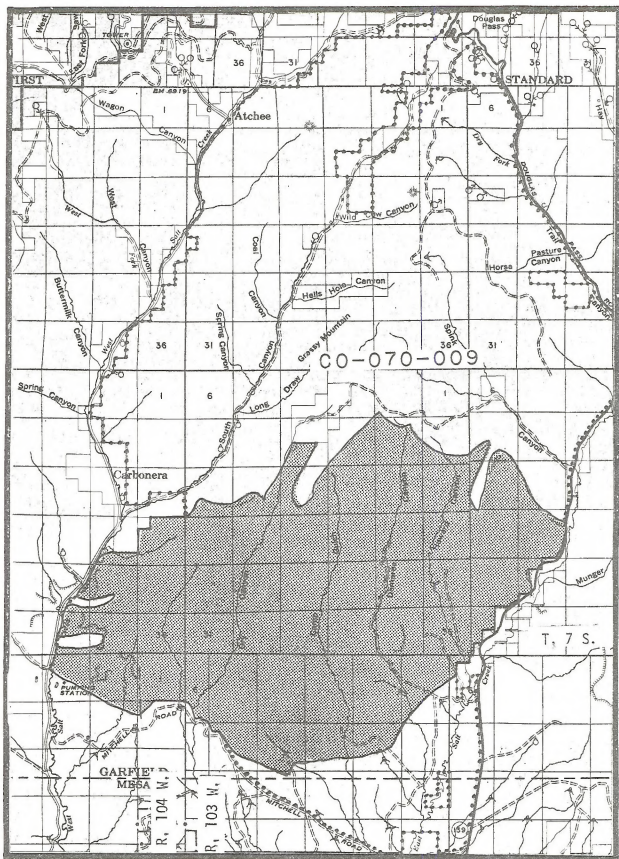
The combined unit is of sufficient size (12,900 acres). Due to public comments this unit was added to the initial inventory and will undergo the intensive inventory stage.

REFERENCES:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quad:

Kiowa Hill
Sky Valley Ranch

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-30



1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Under Section 603

256 Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GRAND JUNCTION

General Location:
The unit is located north of Loma, Colorado

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 29,300 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-009
Area Name: Demaree Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

Unit is under oil and gas lease. No known locatable mineral activity is occurring in the unit. Man-made modifications include fences, reservoirs and spring developments. Oil and gas development is contiguous to the unit. Grazing is currently the dominant land use. Hunting is the major activity; some ORV use has also been observed.

The unit is part of the dissected plateau between Douglas Pass to the north and the Bookcliffs to the south. Canyons are oriented north to south. Pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation interspersed with mountain shrub areas. Pockets of Douglas fir also occur on the north slopes in the higher elevations.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions

The 29,300 acres that now make up CO-070-009 were initially not recommended for intensive inventory. Because of public comment and further field checks, this area is now being considered again for intensive study.

Deletions

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Comments were received stating that at least 5,000 acres of the original 009 should qualify for further study.

Roads: Quite a few comments addressed the roadless nature of part of the unit. Some of these were specifically addressing the Demaree Canyon area.

Naturalness: Few comments addressed the naturalness of the unit and stated that it contains naturally interesting geologic and ecologic features.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (29,300 acres) and contain few imprints of man. Many public comments address the high degree of naturalness found within the unit. Because of boundary changes that eliminate most of man's imprints, the area recommended is natural and should be further evaluated for wilderness classification.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: USGS Topographic Quad:

Douglas Pass
Howard Canyon
Sexter Pass
Carbonera

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-19

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

The unit is located about 10 miles north of Grand Junction (Mesa County).

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,000 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-015A

Area Name: Hunter Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. A large portion of the unit is covered by oil and gas leases. Several active gas wells are near the periphery of the unit. No locatable mineral activity is known. Several stock reservoirs, fencelines, and ways exist within the unit. Grazing permits cover the entire unit and constitutes the primary land use. Big game hunting occurs throughout the area. The unit consists of a series of ridges, canyons and chalk-colored bluffs. Vegetation ranges from Aspen and Douglas Fir in the higher elevations to shadscale and various grasses in the lower elevations. All lands within the unit boundaries are public lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Since this is a new identified inventory unit, all additions and deletions are from lands in the original inventory unit that had not been recommended for intensive inventory.

Additions:

Of the approximately 186,000 acres of CO-070-015, 17,500 acres (Cow Ridge) were identified for intensive inventory. Due to numerous public comments stating that the initial Cow Ridge should be expanded to the west, field checks were conducted to determine if the remaining acreage of CO-070-015 would qualify for an intensive inventory. The field checks revealed that two portions of this unit, not contiguous to Cow Ridge, appeared to possess roadlessness, naturalness, and have sufficient size. These two additional units have been identified as CO-070-015A, (Hunter Canyon) and CO-070-015B (Garvey Canyon). Garvey Canyon is addressed in a separate report. The unit that this report addresses is considered as an addition to CO-070-015 (17,000 acres). The boundaries for this unit were expanded out to the nearest road, major imprint of man and/or parcel of private property.

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Several comments state that the unit contains sufficient acreage to become an intensive inventory unit.

Roads: Several comments state the area appears roadless. Field checks were conducted by one of the environmental organizations that submitted comments. Their field checks and recommendations helped in identifying this unit.

Naturalness: Numerous comments state that naturalness exists within the unit.

General Comments:

Numerous comments were received stating that Cow Ridge should be expanded and that the western portion of CO-070-015, of which this unit was a part of, should be examined more closely. They stated also, that this portion of the unit should be added to the initial inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (13,000 acres) and contains only minor imprints of man. The public comments on this portion of the original CO-070-015 spurred field checks of the area. It was found that two portions of CO-070-015 do qualify for intensive study. This unit (CO-070-015A, Hunter Canyon) was identified as a result of public comment and field checks.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map #: U.S.G.S. Topo. Quad:

Middle Dry Fork
Cortcoran Peak
Winter Flats

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-25
NW-19

NOTE: See page 186 for map of this unit.

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

The unit is located about 12 miles north of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,800 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-015B
Area Name: Garvey Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist on the unit. Some of the unit has oil shale withdrawals. A large portion of it is covered by oil and gas leases. No locatable mineral activity is known. Grazing permits cover the entire unit and constitutes the primary land use. Big game hunting occurs throughout the area. Improvements include some fences, ways and stock reservoirs. The unit consists of a series of ridges, canyons and chalk-colored bluffs. The dominant vegetation is pinon-juniper with some Douglas Fir occurring at the higher elevations. All land within the unit boundaries are public lands.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Since this is a newly identified inventory unit, all additions and deletions are from lands in the original inventory unit that had not been recommended for intensive inventory.

Additions:

Of the approximately 186,000 acres of CO-070-015, 17,500 acres (Cow Ridge) were identified for intensive inventory. Due to numerous public comments stating that the initial Cow Ridge should be expanded to the west, field checks were conducted to determine if the remaining acreage would qualify for an intensive inventory. The field checks revealed that two portions of CO-070-015, not contiguous to Cow Ridge, appeared to possess roadlessness, naturalness, and have been identified as CO-070-015A (Hunter Canyon) and CO-070-015B (Garvey Canyon). Hunter Canyon is addressed in a separate report. The unit that this report addresses is considered as an addition to CO-070-015. The size of this unit is 13,300 acres. The boundaries for this unit were expanded out to the nearest road, major imprint of man and/or parcel of private property.

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Several comments state that the unit contains sufficient acreage to become an intensive inventory unit.

Roads: Several comments state that the area appears roadless. Field checks were conducted by one of the environmental organizations that submitted comments. Their field checks and recommendations helped in identifying this unit.

Naturalness: Numerous comments were received stating that Cow Ridge should be expanded and that the western portion of CO-070-015, of which this unit was once a part of, should be examined more closely. They stated also, that this portion of the unit should be added to the initial inventory.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (13,300 acres) and contains only minor imprints of man. The public comments on this portion of the original CO-070-015 spurred field checks of the area. It was found that two portions of CO-070-015 do qualify for intensive study. This unit (CO-070-015B, Garvey Canyon) was identified as a result of public comments and field checks.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.:

USGS Topographic
Quad:

Ruby Lee Reservoir
Garvey Canyon
Middle Dry Fork

NOTE: See page 186 for map of this unit.

General Location:

This unit is located approximately 33 miles southwest of Grand Junction and is located in Mesa County. It is contiguous with initial inventory CO-070-132A, Palisade.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Size: 19,000 acres

Inventory #: CO-070-132A

Area Name: Granite Creek

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is under oil and gas lease, but no developments are known to exist. It is believed that increased uranium exploration activities may be occurring in the southern portion of the unit, and numerous mining claims probably are located within the area. No easements have been issued. The unit contains three grazing allotments, constituting the primary land use. Other human activity includes ORV use and hunting. The unit generally represents the pinyon-juniper woodland type; the topography varies from rugged, granite cliffs around Renegade Point to rolling, "badland" type terrain in the southern portion. Contiguous to the west is the State of Utah; the BLM Moab District has identified a contiguous roadless area of over 5,000 acres adjoining Granite Creek Canyon.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

None

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: None

Roads: The State of Colorado expressed concern that the unit included county roads. However, no roads exist in the unit. One comment stated that one "road" traversing through the bottom of Granite Creek Canyon and another traveling east/west across Lost Horse Basin have both been maintained by seismologists last year. Another comment states that this same road traversing Lost Horse Basin is not regularly maintained. The latter comment states that numerous slides exist on that "road."

Naturalness: One comment addresses naturalness. It is stated that there are interesting rock formations, goosenecks, grottoes, springs, waterfalls, scenic vistas and that the area is secluded and isolated. Bald eagles, horned owls and signs of mountain lion were reported to be observed.

General Comments:

Comment was received stating the unit had potential for oil and gas as well as uranium. Air quality conflicts were also identified for this unit because of a potential shale plant located 55 miles to the northeast.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (19,000 acres) and appears to contain few imprints of man. The public comments addressing the "roads" that exist within the area prompted a field check. The field check was cursory and additional examination of the entire length is needed. However, the partial field check revealed that this "road" was not maintained and does not receive regular and continuous use and is a way. Overall, the unit is natural. No boundary changes have been made as a result of public comment.

REFERENCES:

0913, 0970
0971

USGS Topographic Quad:
Coates Creek
Two V Basin

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: SW-1 NW-25

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

North of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 23,700 acres

District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-031

Area Name: South Shale Ridge

State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

The entire unit is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. No easements exist on the unit. The entire unit has been leased for oil and gas with two known wells within the unit. However, they are both dry holes. Other permanent improvements include stock reservoirs, fencelines, and ways. The primary land use is grazing. Other uses are hunting, hiking, rockhounding, and horseback riding. South Shale Ridge is a narrow ridge running east to west flanked by relatively steep shale cliffs on the south. Rough cedar breaks and multi-colored shale bluffs characterize much of the area. Dominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper. Local areas of Douglas fir are also found at the higher elevations.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS (refer to map):

Additions:

Of the original 30,100 acres, 23,700 acres were determined to be roadless and natural based on field examination.

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: Several letters were received stating the area did have sufficient size to qualify for intensive study.

Roads: A number of comments said the unit was roadless.

Naturalness: Various comments received said the area was "pristine" or natural.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Many comments were submitted by individuals and environmental groups stating that the area should be included in the intensive inventory. One environmental organization said that the unit offers hiking and camping opportunities and that the ridge offers climbing excitement and beauty.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

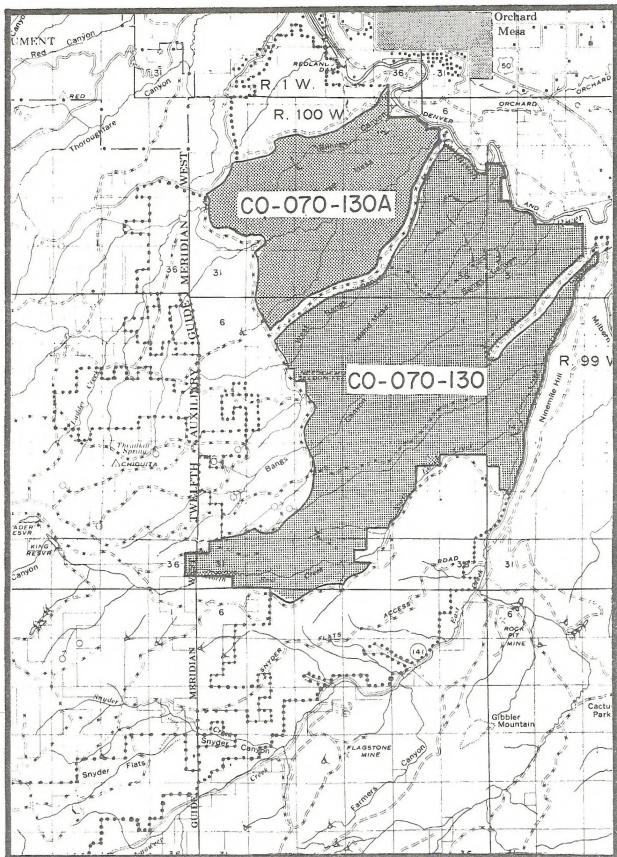
The unit is of sufficient size (23,700 acres), is roadless and contains only minor imprints of man. Field checks were conducted as a result of numerous public comments addressing a concern to include this unit within the intensive inventory. The field checks revealed that the unit had some major imprints, which were later excluded by making some boundary adjustments. With the adjusted boundary, the unit meets the basic criteria of size, roadlessness and naturalness. All public comments were considered in determining the unit's boundary.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: USGS Topographic
Quad:
Wagon Track Ridge,
Winter Flats,
Corcoran Peak,
Debeque, Long Peak

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-26, NW-25,
NW-19, NW-20

NOTE: See page of this report for map of this unit.



1/2 0 1/2 1 2 miles

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY
Under Section 603

262 Federal Land Policy and Management Act
of October 21, 1976

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

The unit is located southeast of Grand Junction, Colorado

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 21,500 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-130
Area Name: Bangs Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No easements exist within the unit. None of the area is under oil and gas lease. Little, if any mineral exploration has occurred. All of the unit is covered by grazing permits. Within the area there are a few fencelines and some stock reservoirs.

Grazing has been the dominant use of the area. Human activities include hunting, hiking and some ORV use.

The unit is made up of an eroding mesa. Some drainages dissect the area and run westerly and northeasterly. The unit is dominated by pinyon-juniper interspersed with grassy parks.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 21,500 acres have been added to make up the unit.

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: A few comments indicated that this area was of sufficient size to be considered a wilderness area.

Roads: Several comments stated that the jeep trails within the unit were "ways" and that they were very overgrown and in poor condition.

Naturalness: Several comments indicated that the scenery within the unit was outstanding and that the canyons there remained natural. One comment addressed the many undisturbed ecosystems in the unit.

General Comments:

Some comments stated that the unit was generally large enough to be a wilderness area, and that there was good opportunity for hiking, skiing and backpacking in this area. Other comments indicated concern that the area was overlooked and should be further considered as a wilderness area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (21,500 acres), is roadless and apparently in a natural state, being minimally affected by man's imprints.

Public comments indicate that all ways located within the unit are of a minimal impact, and that there are many scenic qualities and opportunities for exceptional recreational pursuits in the area. Based upon these criteria, the unit is recommended for further intensive study.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: USGS Topographic Quad:

Island Mesa
Grand Junction
Whitewater

Colorado Surface-Minerals Management Color Quad: NW-25, SW-1

GRAND JUNCTION, cont.

General Location:

The unit is located southeast of Grand Junction, Colorado

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,000 acres
District: Grand Junction

Inventory #: CO-070-130A
Area Name: Rough Canyon
State: Colorado

SUMMARY OF UNIT ANALYSIS:

No assessments exist within the unit. None of the area is under oil and gas lease. Little, if any mineral exploration has occurred. All of the unit is covered by grazing permits. Within the area are several stock reservoirs, fencelines, a stock tank, a shelter, corral and a firewood sale area.

Grazing has been the dominant use of the area. Human activities include hunting, hiking and some ORV use.

The unit is made up of an eroding mesa. It is heavily dissected by canyons that drain westerly and northeasterly. Vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper woodlands interspersed with sagebrush parks.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:

Additions:

Approximately 8,000 acres have been added to make up the entire unit, CO-070-130A. Further field checks and public comments have indicated that this area should be considered for intensive inventory.

Deletions:

None

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Size: A few comments indicated that this area was of sufficient size to be considered a wilderness area.

Roads: Several comments stated that the jeep trails within the unit were "ways" and that they were very overgrown and in poor condition.

Naturalness: Several comments indicated that the scenery within the unit was outstanding and that the canyons there remained natural. One comment addressed the many undisturbed ecosystems in the units.

General Comments:

Some comments stated that the unit was generally large enough to be a wilderness area, and that there was good opportunity for hiking, skiing and backpacking in this area. Other comments indicated concern that the area was overlooked and should be further considered as a wilderness area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING INTENSIVE INVENTORY:

The unit is of sufficient size (8,000), is roadless and apparently in a natural state, being minimally affected by man's imprints.

Public comments indicate that all ways located within the unit are of a minimal impact, and that there are many scenic qualities and opportunities for exceptional recreational pursuits in the area. Based upon these criteria, the unit is recommended for further intensive study.

REFERENCES:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Map No.: USGS Topographic Quad:

Island Mesa
Grand Junction
Whitewater

Colorado surface-Mineral Management Color Quad: NW-25, SW-1

INDEX OF INVENTORY UNITS

INVENTORY UNIT INDEX

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>CRAIG</u>		
CO-010-001A	K-Creek	67
CO-010-001B	Bull Canyon	67
CO-010-002	Willow Creek	71
CO-010-002A	Twin Wash	71
CO-010-002B	Lazy Y Point	71
CO-010-003	Skull Creek	73
CO-010-00N1, N2, N3, N4a, N4b, N4c, N4d, N4e, N5, N6A	Dinosaur N.M. Adjacent-South	63
CO-010-006B	Pinyon Ridge	75
CO-010-007A	Black Mountain	77
CO-010-007B	Berry Point	77
CO-010-007C	Windy Gulch	79
CO-010-012	Hammond Draw	43
CO-010-017	Mellen Hill	43
CO-010-024a	Philadelphia Creek	43
CO-010-046	Missouri Creek	253
CO-010-050	Whiskey Creek	43
CO-010-055A	Rangley/Raven Ridge	43
CO-010-101	Independence Mountain	44
CO-010-102	Independence Mountain	44
CO-010-106	Independence Mountain	44
CO-010-108	North Sand Hills-ISA	15
CO-010-111	Independence Mountain	44
CO-010-113	Independence Mountain	44
CO-010-155	Troublesome	97
CO-010-168	Drowsy Waters	99
CO-010-178	Yarmony Mountain	101
CO-010-208	Cold Springs Mountain	81
CO-010-208E	Limestone	83
CO-010-210	Irish Canyon	83
CO-010-210D	Douglas Draw	85
CO-010-211	Lower Dry Creek	30
CO-010-213	North Lookout	30
CO-010-214	Diamond Breaks	87
CO-010-218, 218A 224, 224A, 226, 227, 228, 229D, 271/N6B	Dinosaur N.M. Adjacent-North	90
CO-010-230	Cross Mountain	95
CO-010-243A	Little Snake North	44
CO-010-254	Little Snake South	44

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>CRAIG</u>		
CO-010-272	Twelve Mile Breaks	29
CO-010-283	Juniper Mountain	44
CO-010-290	Little Yampa Canyon	44
UT-080-104	Wild Mountain	103
UT-080-110	Hoy Mountain	87
UT-080-114	Pot Creek	103
<u>MONTROSE</u>		
CO-030-053A	Steer's Gulch	107
CO-030-057	Willow Creek	108
CO-030-063	Dillon Mesa	109
CO-030-080	Big Blue	45
CO-030-084	High Mesa	45
CO-030-085	Bill Hare Gulch	111
CO-030-086	Jarsen Creek	112
CO-030-088	Sparling Gulch	114
CO-030-089	Powderhorn ISA	19
CO-030-208	Red Cloud Peak	117
CO-030-210	Rambouillet Park	121
CO-030-211	Slumgullion Slide	122
CO-030-212	Waterdog Lake	123
CO-030-213	Friend's Creek	125
CO-030-217F	American Flats	127
CO-030-229A	West Needles Contiguous	129
CO-030-229B	Needle Creek	130
CO-030-230	Deer Park	131
CO-030-230A	Mount Garfield	132
CO-030-238	Green Mountain	133
CO-030-238A	Weminuche Contiguous	135
CO-030-241	Handies Peak	137
CO-030-251	Menefee Mountain	139
CO-030-252	Weber Mountain	141
CO-030-253	Mesa Verde Contiguous	45
CO-030-255 & 255A	Mesa Verde Contiguous	45
CO-030-256	Mesa Verde Contiguous	46
CO-030-262	Hamilton Mountain	143
CO-030-263	Rare Lizard and Snake ISA	20
CO-030-265	Cross Canyon	145
CO-030-265A	Squaw/Papoose Canyon	147
CO-030-265D	Cahone Canyon	149
CO-030-286	McKenna Peak	153
CO-030-290	Coyote Wash/Dolores Canyon	157
CO-030-300	Tabeguache Creek	161
CO-030-310A	Sewemup Mesa	163/207
CO-030-327	Saltado Creek	46

Inventory Unit NumberUnit NamePageMONTROSE

CO-030-332	Baldy Peak Contiguous	165
CO-030-353	Camel Back	167
CO-030-363	Dominquez Canyons	171/203
CO-030-364	Negro Gulch	31
CO-030-370A	Kannah Creek Contiguous	174
CO-030-388	Black Canyon of the Gunnison Contiguous	177

CANON CITY

CO-050-002	Browns Canyon	227
CO-050-003	Badger Creek	47
CO-050-009	High Mesa Grasslands-ISA	22
CO-050-013	McIntyre Hills	231
CO-050-014	Lower Grape Creek	233
CO-050-010	Bear Mountain	229
CO-050-016	Beaver Creek	237
CO-050-017	Upper Grape Creek	235
CO-050-033	Crystal Falls	239
CO-050-120	Trickle Mountain	47
CO-050-131	Black Canyon	241
CO-050-132B	South Piney Creek	241
CO-050-135	Sand Castle	243
CO-050-137	PaPa Keal	245
CO-050-139B	Zapata Creek	245
CO-050-140	Flat Top	247
CO-050-141	San Luis Hills	247
CO-050-142	Twin Peaks	255

GRAND JUNCTION

CO-070-001	Prairie Canyon	183
CO-070-009A	Grassy Mountain	48
CO-070-009	Demaree Canyon	257
CO-070-010	Munger Gulch/Bookcliffs East	49
CO-070-011	Barrel Spring Gulch/Douglas Pass	49
CO-070-013	Carr Creek	33
CO-070-015	Cow Ridge	187
CO-070-015A	Hunter Canyon	258
CO-070-015B	Garvey Canyon	259
CO-070-031	South Shale Ridge	261
CO-070-066	Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Area	191
CO-070-103	Kannah Creek	163/193
CO-070-113	Black Ridge Canyons	195
CO-070-113A	Black Ridge Canyons West	197
CO-070-123	Kings and Toms Canyons/ Little Dolores South	48

<u>Inventory Unit Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>GRAND JUNCTION</u>		
CO-070-130	Bangs Canyon	263
CO-070-130A	Rough Canyon	264
CO-070-132	The Palisade	199
CO-070-132A	Granite Creek	200
CO-070-138	West Unaweep	201
CO-070-150	Dominquez Canyons	171/203
CO-070-150A	Gunnison River	205
CO-070-176	Sewemup Mesa	207
CO-070-316	Grand Hogback	209
CO-070-320	Horse Mountain	35
CO-070-323-325	Rifle Creek	50
CO-070-330-337	Elk Creeks	50
CO-070-338	Storm King	211
CO-070-341-343	Funston	50
CO-070-372	Thompson Creek	213
CO-070-392	Eagle Mountain	215
CO-070-421	Pisgah Mountain	217
CO-070-425	Hack Lake	219
CO-070-430	Bull Gulch	221
CO-070-433	Castle Peak	223
CO-070-439	Deep Creek	37

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